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MONDAY JULY 14 1997

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TODAY

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HILL MAKES A POINT

Villeneuve wins the British Grand Prix PAGES 25, 27

PLUS: 16-PAGE OPEN GOLF SUPPLEMENT



Ministers concerned about BBC commentator's 'conflict of interest'

## Inquiry into swim chief's lottery deals

By CRAIG LORD, ANDREW JENNINGS, DOMINIC KENNEDY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A GOVERNMENT inquiry was promised last night into allegations that Hamilton Bland, the BBC's 'voice of swimming', had been involved in a potential conflict of interest over the distribution of National Lottery money.

Mr Bland has an official role recommending which swimming pool bids receive lottery money. But, according to an investigation by *The Times* and Granada TV's *World in Action*, Mr Bland also has a profitable business as a consultant to those who want to secure lottery funding.

A third aspect of his business has been helping a company to win contracts to build pools, for which he has been paid 5 per cent commission.

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) now intends to set up an independent inquiry into whether this poses a conflict of interest. It will be led by Mark Gay, a partner specialising in sports law at Herbert Smith solicitors, and he is expected to report next month.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, said that he, too, would be calling for a thorough inquiry. That is expected to be conducted by his department officials and the English Sports Council. Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, has also called for reassurances from the Sports Council, which has asked the ASA to take action.

Mr Smith told *The Times*: "There are alarming implications if these allegations are true. They will require the most rigorous investigation and I will want to ensure that it is carried out as rapidly as possible."

Concerns about Mr Bland's multiple business interests were raised by the Sports Council two years ago, but the ASA still renewed his £16,000-



Firm paid thousands Shopkeeper's son Leading article

a-year contract as its facilities consultant, Mr Smith said. "The question that has to be answered was whether there was an investigation at that stage and whether it was strenuous enough."

Since then, more than £80 million has been allocated from the lottery to build new pools and the ASA is seeking a further £500 million for 19 more Olympic-size pools, 27 25-metre international competition pools and dozens of smaller pools.

Mr Bland, a former Olympic coach, who comments on swimming events for the BBC, lives in a secluded mansion and drives an Aston Martin. He lost a home when a previous business went into voluntary liquidation in 1987, but manages a number of thriving businesses based on swimming.

He runs the ASA/Kellogg awards scheme, which provides a large chunk of the governing body's income. Every time an ASA swimming badge is sewn onto a child's trunks - and there are expected to be 1.6 million of them this year - Mr Bland gets a share of the £1.10 prize.

He also promotes SwimGB, the ASA's brand of swimwear.

He takes 25 per cent of the profits or losses from this business, which David Sparkes, the ASA's chief executive, claims has recently moved into profit. In the previous two years he paid his share of the losses.

Mr Bland also received 5 per cent commission payments from an engineering company which won contracts for new pools, while he was at the same time giving advice to local authorities on how to build pools. Two of the councils advised by Mr Bland are considering legal action.

As the ASA's facilities consultant, a role he has held since 1988, Mr Bland is one of the first to know about almost every new public swimming pool proposed in the country. And as one of those involved in drafting the ASA's national Plan for Swimming, he was in a position to influence where pools should be built.

The ASA refers bids for new pools to Mr Bland before making a recommendation to the English Sports Council, which distributes lottery cash. Yet as a private consultant, he earns fees from voluntary organisations advising them on applications to the National Lottery to build pools. One proposed arrangement, for a group of Coventry schools, could earn him £100,000.

He does declare to the ASA which organisations he represents and plays no part in making recommendations on whether those pool bids should get cash.

Mr Sparkes said: "The documents I have been shown raise serious concerns. The ASA will be announcing an independent inquiry. Hamilton Bland is aware of it and has agreed to co-operate fully." Mr Bland, contacted by *The Times* on his mobile phone, declined to comment.



Bland: former Olympic coach manages several thriving businesses based on swimming

## Blair picks John Major's former aide as US envoy

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

CHRISTOPHER MEYER, a former Downing Street press secretary under John Major, has emerged as the surprise front-runner to take over the key diplomatic post of British Ambassador to Washington.

Tony Blair is understood to have decided that Mr Meyer, who became the British envoy in Bonn at the beginning of this year, is the candidate best placed to succeed Sir John Kerr, who will return to London in the autumn to head the Diplomatic Service.

The Prime Minister sees Mr Meyer as someone who can help him cement the warm relationship between London and Washington and the bond he has struck with President Clinton since May.

The decision, which will be announced shortly, is a victory for Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who has argued against the job going to an outside candidate. Those mentioned included Pauline Neville-Jones, who left the Foreign Office after being passed over as Ambassador to Paris. On the cocktail circuit in Washington the name of Tina Brown, editor of *The New Yorker*, was mentioned, although it was never a serious possibility.

Mr Meyer, 53, is well-liked in Washington where he served between 1989 and 1993 as Trade Minister and later deputy head of Mission, before being recruited by Mr Major on secondment from the Foreign Office.

He is the archetypal Foreign Office high flyer known for his polish, charm and exuberance, as well as the bright socks that he wears beneath his sober suits.

In recent weeks there has

been speculation that the job would go to leading Foreign Office figures such as Jeremy Greenstock, the political director, Paul Lever, European Union and economic affairs director, and Sir Stephen Wall, permanent representative to the EU.

But the spotlight has stayed off Mr Meyer because he has only recently taken over in Bonn.

However, Mr Blair, who first met him when he went to Washington while in Opposition and has since been impressed by him at all their meetings, and Mr Cook have decided he is the man they want.

According to informed Labour sources there is an increasingly close relationship between Mr Cook and Mr Blair, who is said to be pleased with the Foreign Secretary's conduct of his job.

Mr Meyer will have easy access to No 10. Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's Downing Street chief of staff, worked under Mr Meyer at the Washington Embassy and the two are good friends.



Meyer: known for his polish and exuberance

### Helicopter crash

A boy died when a helicopter pleasure flight organised by a Noel Edmonds charity crashed and burst into flames near the Scottish home of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Five other passengers were injured in the crash which happened after the helicopter had made an unscheduled landing. Page 3

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### Eta killing condemned by Pope

STREET violence erupted in northern Spain yesterday after the murder of a town councillor by the separatist movement Eta.

Half a million people had rallied to try to save Miguel Angel Blanco, 29, who died in hospital after a two-day kidnapping ended on Saturday. His captors shot him twice in the head and dumped him in a lane.

The Pope denounced the killing as an "act of blood" and a "barbaric murder". France, which has a large Basque community, called it "cowardly". Britain condemned "this brutal killing".

Mass protest, page 11  
Leading article, page 21

### War on junk mail as data watchdog backs customers

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A CRUSADE to stanch the deluge of junk mail and the sale of personal information about customers without consent is to be undertaken by the data protection watchdog.

Elizabeth France, the data protection registrar, has already issued an enforcement notice against British Gas ordering it to stop disclosing details on its huge customer database to marketing organisations. Warnings have also been sent to London Electricity and Southern Electric. Miss France is ready to issue another four notices against three electricity companies and a water company.

In her annual report, to be published on Wednesday, Miss France will expose how the companies sell on personal customer details held on computers. The data can include, for example, how and when payments are made. She wants companies to draw up a code of practice to protect customers.

Supermarket loyalty cards are also being targeted. Miss France said: "If people choose to sell their privacy for air miles, that is their business. But it's my business to ensure they know what they're doing."

A television advertising campaign has already run in Scotland and the North of



### Hill cheered as Villeneuve wins

Jacques Villeneuve won the British Grand Prix to close the gap on Michael Schumacher. But most of the cheers at Silverstone were for Damon Hill who came sixth and won his first point of the season. Pages 25, 27.

## Glenn Miller 'died in Paris prostitute's bed'

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN BONN

THE American band leader, Glenn Miller, did not die in a plane crash over the Channel but in a French brothel, according to an investigative journalist in Germany.

The author of a new book about Germany's intelligence service claims that Miller's plane crashed France and he died of a heart attack in the arms of a prostitute in Paris, the mass-circulation *Bild* reported at the weekend. The book, *Classified Matters*,

due out this week, refers to US secret service files in making new claims about the jazz trombonist's death and a Second World War cover-up. Its author, Udo Ulkotte, a respected journalist with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, claims the circumstances of Miller's death were considered too distasteful to publicise and it was decided to fake a crash.

Miller, one of the most successful big band leaders of the 1940s, was at the height of his career, entertaining US troops in Europe when he died aged 40. The man who wrote *Moon-*

*light Serenade* and *In the Mood* and boosted wartime morale playing 71 concerts for more than 250,000 troops, took off in a single-engine Norseman aircraft from RAF Twinwood, near Bedford, with a pilot and another passenger on December 15, 1944. Miller was due to play a series of concerts in France but, according to the US military which announced his death, he never arrived.

No distress call was registered and no wreckage was sighted until 1985 when a British diver, Clive Ward, discovered the plane about 6½ miles

off the French coast. There was no registration number on the aircraft and no human remains either inside or in the surrounding area.

Dr Ulkotte, 37, writes in his book that US intelligence and military officials were informed that Miller had visited a prostitute in Paris and had collapsed in her bed.

He claims that files he stumbled upon in Washington while researching the book prove both Miller's family and the public were deceived. "It is a typical example of the cover-ups of that period," he told *Bild*.

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## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

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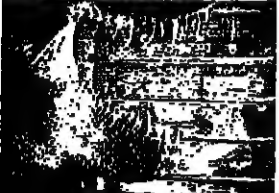
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the last  
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Wednesday

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Saturday

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Rutger Hauer:  
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android

## Sick leave delays end to BA disruption

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS' flights from Heathrow will be disrupted for at least the next three days because more than 1,500 cabin staff are still officially on sick leave.

While all 313 members of the militant Transport and General Workers' union have now reported for duty, only about 200 of the 1,953 who suddenly went sick when the strike was called have told BA that they are now fit enough to go back to work.

Many were given seven-day sick notes by their doctors just before the three-day strike began last Wednesday. As a result, despite the ending of the walk-out and all strikers report-

ing for normal duty, only 74 out of 122 scheduled short-haul European flights from Heathrow will operate today and only 75 on Tuesday. Only 41 long-haul flights out of 48, and only 32 of the planned 60 domestic services will run, BA said.

Garwick, where short-haul and domestic services were only slightly affected by the dispute, should be completely back to normal by Tuesday.

"The three-day strike has had a significant and long-lasting impact," a BA spokeswoman said last night. "Many aircraft and staff are out of position because of the dispute."

passengers have rebooked in anticipation of further disruption and with so many staff reporting sick the combination of problems has meant further regrettable problems for our

customers." The strike action by members of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association (BASSA) formally ended at 6am on Saturday. But throughout yesterday barely half of BA's Heathrow flights went ahead as planned. The airline cancelled 69 out of 120 short-haul flights, 15 out of 50 short-haul services and was able to fly only 18 out of 46 scheduled domestic operations.

Ironically many of the strikers who rang to say they were ready for duty were told to stay at home because, BA said, there were no aircraft available to put them on; or because so many passengers had cancelled, flights had been amalgamated.

New talks are expected on the dispute today and tomorrow, with no further official strikes being called

for the time being. But the reasons for the continuation of the dispute are becoming increasingly arcane.

BA has given a written guarantee that no cabin staff will be worse off as a result of the changes planned in their pay and conditions. It has offered increases of up to 24 per cent in basic pay in return for a cut in overtime and other allowances.

As part of an agreement already signed by the rival union, Cabin Crew 89, BA has given each of the airline's cabin staff a certificate promising to monitor their pay during the next three years and to ensure that no one loses out.

But one senior cabin crew member who went on strike said that he and his colleagues no longer trusted the BA management to stick to their promise. "What is going to happen in

three years' time?" he said. "None of us has any trust in them."

Jim Welsh, chairman of Cabin Crew 89, said last night that the strike had been needless. "Even BASSA say that the agreements reached with us can stand," he said.

Pickets are likely to be outside BA's annual general meeting tomorrow, and protests are certain in the hall as so many staff are now shareholders. Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, is certain to give a robust and combative account of the strike to shareholders who are becoming increasingly concerned at the long-term damage to BA's reputation.

Hopes are high, however, that a settlement can be reached this week over a second dispute involving the sell-off of the airline's catering unit at Heathrow.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Euro-MPs to question minister over beef

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, will go before the European Parliament in Strasbourg tomorrow to explain how hundreds of tonnes of British beef were exported to the Continent despite a ban imposed 16 months ago (Michael Hornsby writes).

He will be questioned by a parliamentary committee set up a year ago to investigate "mad cow" disease, and will be accompanied by Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner.

The European Commission is considering whether to start legal proceedings against Britain for failing to enforce the trade ban, and Dr Cunningham has been warned that the lifting of the export embargo could be further delayed because of evidence of lax British controls after beef had been smuggled out of Britain via Belgium.

## Thalidomide parents' claim

The parents of Georgina Harrison, four, who was born with deformed arms and legs are to begin a legal claim in which they maintain that birth defects caused by thalidomide can be inherited. Glenn and Deborah Harrison, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, will present their evidence to lawyers for Guinness, which took over Distillers, makers of thalidomide. They want £50,000 damages and are threatening legal action.

## Buoy sabotaged by Greenpeace

Environmental protesters were accused of piracy after they sabotaged a buoy being used in the hunt for new oil reserves in the Atlantic. Greenpeace members went to sea in inflatable dinghies to remove the buoy's satellite antenna as part of an ongoing campaign. The buoy is vital to seismic tests carried out by the research vessel *Pacific Horizon* on behalf of oil companies, headed by Texaco, which are seeking reserves west of Shetland.

## Man murdered at nightclub

A man was shot dead by two robbers as he stood talking to friends in the foyer of a Birmingham club early yesterday. West Midlands police believe Adriel Peters, 34, may have been killed when he started to argue with one of the men, who had handguns, at the Porsche club in Small Heath. He was shot once in the head in "cold-blood" and the robbers — both black men in their early 20s — may have taken his wallet and some jewellery.

## Rare cricketing film discovered

Rare film of two great cricketers, Percy Fender and the Australian Don Bradman, has been found by the British Film Institute and will be shown to the public for the first time in 60 years. Fender is shown in coverage by Pathé News of a match between Sussex and Lancashire in the summer of 1933. The Bradman footage dates from 1930, his first momentous tour of England, and also shows his century at Trent Bridge in 1938.

## Carey to speak against gay clergy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is expected to give a strong traditionalist lead today on the issue of homosexuality among Church of England clergy.

Dr Carey, who is expected to state that all sexual relationships should take place inside marriage, represents a growing body of opinion in the Church angered by pressure groups who have attempted to force the issue of homosexuality to the top of the agenda.

Church leaders want Anglicans to concentrate on issues such as the Christian approach to the millennium, and the remaining few years of the Decade of Evangelism. But the church's lesbian and gay activists are determined not to let the matter rest until the Church has sanctioned the ordination of practising homosexuals.

According to a survey published yesterday by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, about ten serving diocesan bishops, nearly a quarter of the total, have knowingly ordained actively gay priests. And the Rev Richard Kierke, of the movement, called on the Church to

drop the "damaging and dishonest pretence that it is not ordaining homosexuals in considerable numbers".

Traditionalists and evangelicals strongly oppose the ordination of practising homosexuals and the Church's official line is one of opposition to same-sex relationships.

Some bishops have done their best to accommodate homosexual clergy, in spite of the Church's official view, out of recognition that their ministry can be as good if not better than that of their heterosexual colleagues. These bishops are now concerned that their tolerance and willingness to help is being described as hypocrisy.

□ The Bishop of Liverpool, Dr David Sheppard, yesterday called for higher taxes to create full employment. Dr Sheppard, preaching at a service at York Minster, said: "If the whole Church really cared, we might change the climate of opinion in our country. Such a change in the climate would make some policies possible, like paying more tax, which politicians have shied away from."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Lesbian and gay Christians outside the Synod yesterday. The feared disruptive protests did not materialise

## Prince joins Blair's jobs campaign

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Prince of Wales has signalled his backing for the Government's welfare to work scheme by authorising talks this week on a link-up with the projects for jobless youngsters already available under his own Prince's Trust.

In one of a series of meetings this week with Cabinet ministers, the Prince will appear with Gordon Brown at a dinner, organised by the Business in the Community organisation, at which the Chancellor will call on companies to make welfare to work a success.

Amid private suggestions by senior ministers that the Prince is developing an increasingly warm relationship with the Government, he will today join Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, at the University of Strathclyde, where the minister is expected to urge Scottish employers to back the Prince's Trust.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, is to attend an event at the Prince's Highgrove home later in the week to promote primary school teaching. He is also expected to have lunch this week with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

## Blair accused of 'purge' over plan to vet candidates

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR is poised to take rigorous centralised powers over the choice of Labour's parliamentary candidates.

The move, designed to weed out "unsuitable" candidates, is being condemned by the Left as an attempt to turn Labour into an exclusive club of middle-class Blairites.

Labour has already moved to prevent local parties selecting low-calibre candidates in crucial by-elections; under arrangements that have operated during the last two Parliaments, the National Executive Committee picks a list of suitable names and allows the constituency to choose from it. But now the Prime Minister wants to ensure that the 600-strong list of potential parliamentary candidates, open to anyone who has been a party member for two years, is properly vetted.

Labour leadership sources reject the charges from left-wingers of a "purge" and claim that the move is designed to get more women, members of ethnic minorities, business people and other groups into Parliament. A

report that goes to the NEC later this month says: "Past panels have included some highly unsuitable members who have traversed the country seeking selection and occasionally been successful."

Under the plans, candidates who had been nominated by their local or regional parties would be called to weekend schools where they would undergo assessment, involving press conferences, public speeches and appearing on television.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate party experience and commitment, public service experience and grasp of policy issues. Mr Blair made plain in a speech on Saturday that there would be no going back on his reforms or on the plans to go before this year's conference to weaken the ability of conference to stand in the way of a Labour government's policy. Senior aides say that Mr Blair is constantly preaching the message to the party that "one term is not enough" and that it must continue to behave in a way that retains public trust.

## Police vie for top two crime jobs

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWENTY senior police officers are competing for the two most important jobs fighting crime in Britain, each paying salaries of up to £99,000 a year.

The applications are for the post of the first Director-General of the new National Crime Squad and Director-General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

The jobs are open to chief constables and senior assistant chief constables and carry contracts of three to five years.

At one stage senior police debated joining the two agencies together under one super commander. The Association of Chief Police Officers eventually ruled this out and set the salaries for the two posts at the level of a middle-ranking senior chief constable. As a result senior officers say that a number of potential candidates among chief constables and senior London officers have decided not to apply.

The new National Crime Squad comes into existence next April and will be created by an amalgamation of the current regional crime squads.

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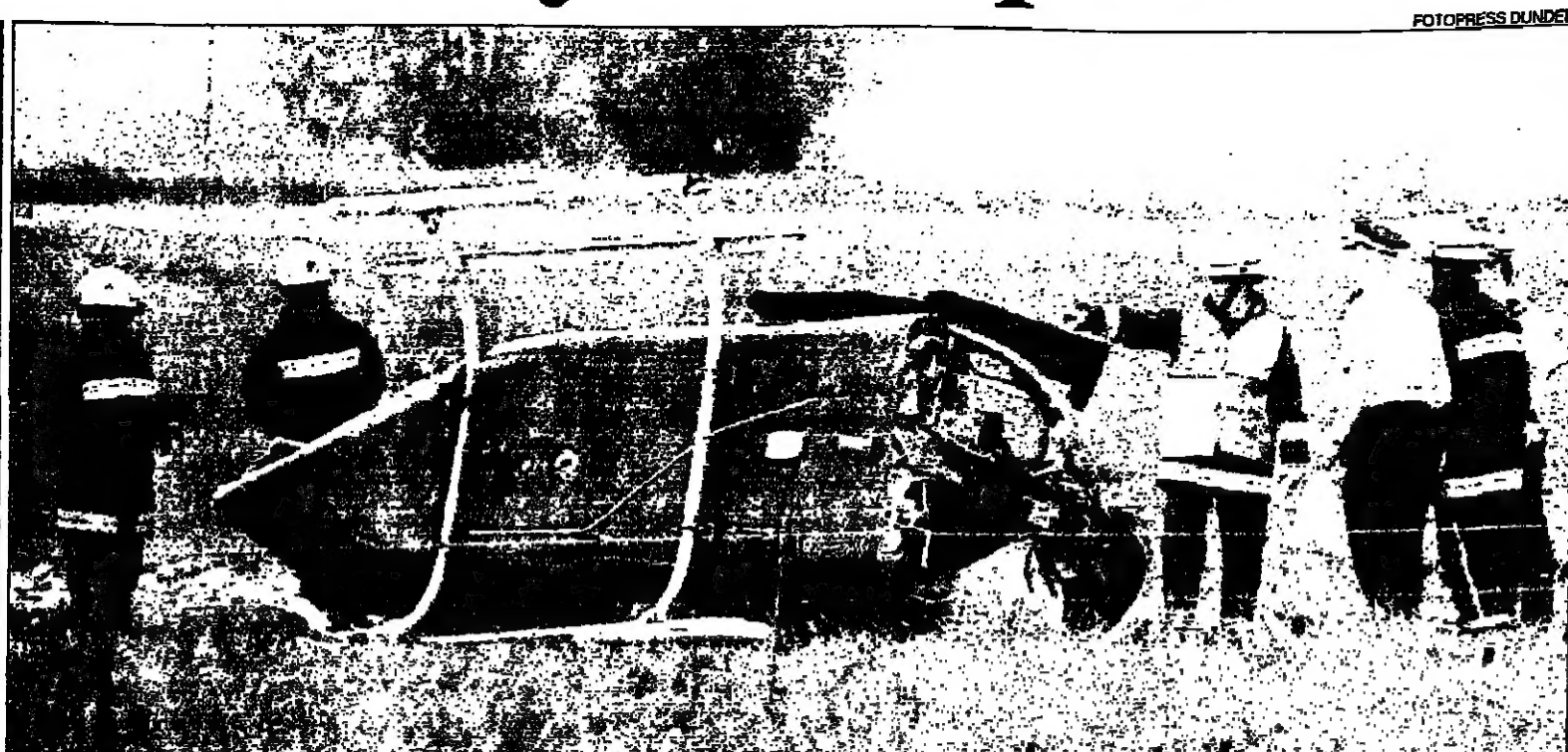
مكتبة الامم المتحدة



# Boy, nine, dies in charity helicopter ride



Noel Edmonds, left, was said to be devastated by the death of nine-year-old Gary Malley in the grounds of Glamis Castle yesterday. The helicopter crashed after making an unscheduled landing three minutes into the flight



FOTOPRESS DUNDEE

## Shirley English and Adrian Lee report on a flight for handicapped children that went wrong

A BOY died yesterday when a helicopter pleasure flight organised by a Noel Edmonds charity crashed and burst into flames near the Scottish residence of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Mr Edmonds was a star attraction at the event, in the grounds of Glamis Castle, Perthshire, the family seat of the Earls of Strathmore and the childhood home of the Queen Mother.

The television presenter said he was devastated by the death of Gary Malley, nine, of Dundee. Five others were injured in the crash, which was arranged to give handicapped and underprivileged children the chance to fly.

The helicopter apparently made

an unscheduled landing three minutes into the flight and crashed when trying to take off again. Gary, who suffered from a serious speech impediment, was apparently thrown from the helicopter when it crashed in a field of bulls. The front section of the cockpit shattered as the helicopter fell on to its left-hand side and skidded 150 yards through fencing.

One theory is that the pilot was trying to find a safer place to land. Rescuers had difficulty reaching the wreckage because of the bulls' agitation.

The aircraft was owned by Tom

Farmer, the millionaire founder of the Kwik-Fit exhaust chain. It was one of several taking children and their parents on rides from the Scottish Transport Extravaganza.

The injured — Ryan Nicoll, 11, Duncan Jones, 11, both of Dundee, Fraser Patrick, eight, and his father, Alan, 45, from Aberdeen, and the pilot, Bob Hobson — were taken to Dundee Royal Infirmary, where they were discharged after treatment for minor injuries.

Witnesses said a fire engine was on standby at the site and the flames were extinguished before the fuel tank exploded. The flight

had been organised by the Airborne Trust, a charity founded by Mr Edmonds to give underprivileged and handicapped children the experience of flying.

There had been heavy rain shortly before the crash. Two other helicopters at the festival, attended by several thousand people, were grounded but the event continued with most people unaware of the accident.

Kay Adam, 28, who lives at the farm, said: "The rain was torrential. I was in the house and heard a noise like a tree crashing. I saw the helicopter in the field and saw a

group of people standing next to it. They were surrounded by bulls.

"I rushed to phone the emergency services and came across to the helicopter and got the kids up and into a shed in the farm. The field was full of bulls and when they got scared, they got very angry," she said.

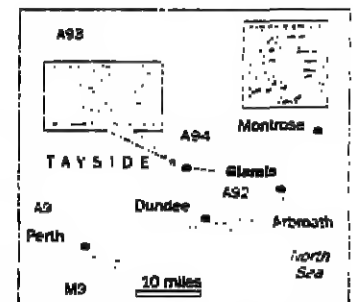
Phil Ward, a friend of Mr Edmonds, said: "I know Noel and I know that he will be very upset. I just hope it has not put him off any of his fund-raising activities."

A spokesman for Airborne, which has organised 7,000 flights without incident, said: "Everyone

connected with the charity is extremely upset at this terrible tragedy." The flights had been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The Jet Ranger 200, regarded as the workhorse of commercial helicopters, has an excellent safety record and there are more than 7,000 in operation. A team of investigators from the Air Accident Investigation Branch is to produce a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal. Estate staff said the Queen Mother was not in residence.

Chief Superintendent Stewart Davidson, of Tayside Police, said:



"It appears that the helicopter may have been in the process of trying to take off again. But that is only speculation. Obviously, the pilot is shocked and we will need to interview him."

## Listeners and MPs will fight Radio 4 cuts

BY MARK HENDERSON

RADIO 4 listeners were lining up yesterday to save up to 20 programmes earmarked for the axe by the station's new controller.

Shows such as *Start the Week*, *You and Yours*, *Going Places* and *The Afternoon Shift* are scheduled to go under a programme review to be put before the BBC Board of Governors on July 24. The blueprint for change has already been approved in principle by the BBC's executive management committee.

Shortened versions of *Farming Today* and *Yesterday in Parliament* are to be incorporated within an extended *Today*, and other programmes, including *The Moral Maze* and *PM*, are to be moved from their peak-time slots. The 9.05am slot will be filled by a daily celebrity chat show, *Test Match Special*, the ball-by-ball cricket commentary on Radio 4 long wave, is also under threat from the review, which is scheduled to take effect in April.

James Boyle, the station's

controller, has decided on the changes after six months of consultations. He hopes to persuade people who tune in only for the most popular programmes — *Today*, *The World at One* and *The Archers* — to stay tuned by introducing stronger programmes around them.

But Radio 4 listeners' groups and devotees of the threatened programmes said they would fight the plans. Rachel Mawhood of Radio 4 Watch, the organisation which saw off plans to remove the channel's long wave frequency in 1993, said Mr Boyle was squeezing out minority interest and highbrow discussion.

"The complaint is about 'dumbing down' and it seems to be a justified one," she said. "I think it appalling that *Start the Week*, a heavyweight programme, is to be replaced by celebrity interviews. It really gets up my nose that people think that just because people are famous they have something interesting to say."

Politicians are planning an Early Day Motion condemning the loss of *Yesterday in Parliament*'s verbatim Commons reports. Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, said: "I don't honestly know what the BBC is thinking of. I despair sometimes that worthy programmes like this are being taken off."

The BBC said it remained committed to high quality speech programming aimed at listeners in their thirties and forties. "We have absolutely no intention of dumbing down Radio 4. That is absolutely wrong," a spokesman said.

## Good turn is timely reminder for widow

BY ROBIN YOUNG

WHEN time ran out for Malcolm Eccles his dying wish was that he should provide a timely reminder for his wife. So he had his ashes turned into an egg-timer.

Brenda Eccles, 42, had never been able to cook a soft-boiled egg without her husband's help. When Mr Eccles, a screen printer from Oldham, Greater Manchester, was diagnosed two years ago as suffering from bowel cancer he took his wife to a local beauty spot, Hollingworth Lake, to talk about his likely death.

Mrs Eccles said yesterday: "He said he had worked hard all his life and enjoyed it, so he could not see why he should stop working when he was dead. I cannot boil a soft egg to save my life. He knew that and said I should turn some of his ashes into an egg timer then he could help me and it would be a nice way of remembering him. He said, 'At least when you turn me over it will make you smile rather than make you cry.'"

After her husband died last February, at the age of 50, Mrs Eccles complied with his suggestion in grand style, by having glassblowers and joiners construct a custom-built egg-timer one foot high to contain his ashes.

"I can see him up there laughing at me," Mrs Eccles said yesterday. "If people going through the same thing can get a smile or a laugh out of it too, then it be well worth while."

Mrs Eccles added: "Malcolm was as daft as a brush. He had a good sense of humour which he kept right through to the end."



Ashton: despairs that programmes are cut

## Sweet-toothed teenager is Dublin's first Internet thief

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE boy with a sweet tooth has become Ireland's first Internet criminal after ordering £1,600 of chocolate on the credit card of an unwitting Argentinian.

The case began last month in a middle-class home in Sutton, north Dublin, where a 15-year-old boy was surfing the Net on his parents' computer. He chanced upon an American company offering home deliveries of chocolate. The boy called up the order form, filled in his name and address and lodged an order for £2,000 of Dairy Milk Toffee Crisp and Mars bars. Further prompts asked for his credit card number. He made one up, typing in 16

digits at random. Four days later, while his parents were out, the courier arrived with three large containers of chocolate. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, paid the required £40 stamp duty and stashed the bounty in his room. He and his young friend began to sample the chocolate delights.

Meanwhile, the credit card holder in Argentina was distressed to discover that he had paid \$2,000 to an American company supplying chocolates. He denied any knowledge of the order and the hunt for the missing sweets began. The American suppliers checked the order form, realised the order went to Dublin rather

than to Argentina and contacted the Irish police. The Irish fraud squad began investigating its first case of Internet fraud.

Police called at the boy's home last week to find him devouring the evidence. According to one Irish weekend newspaper, his parents were "dumbfounded" at the discovery. All three co-operated fully with the police and recovered the remains of the stash.

As a juvenile, the boy will not be charged with obtaining goods by false pretences and the American company donated his booty to a children's charity in Dublin. The offender is said to be "remorseful and sick of the sight of chocolate."

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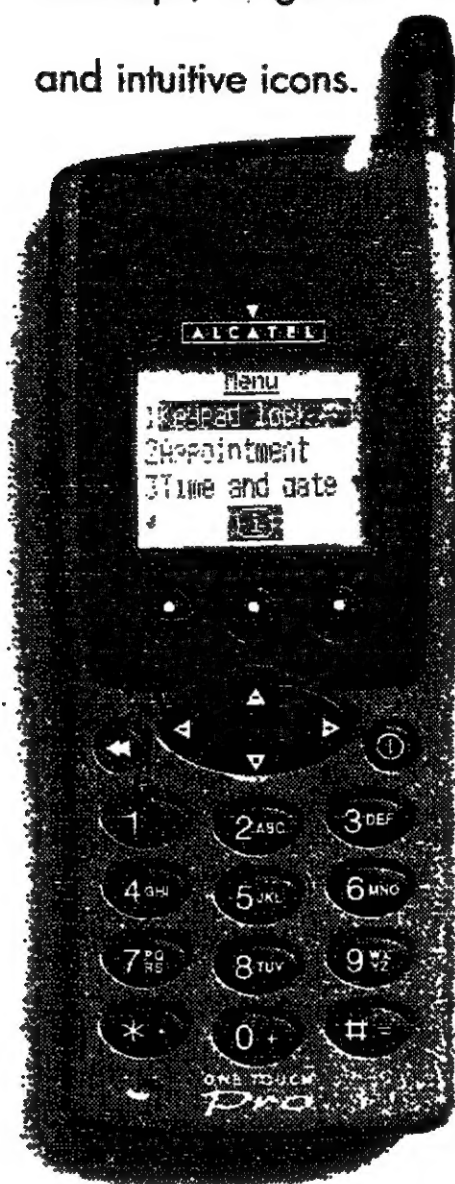
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# Princess's holiday with Al Fayed 'ill advised'

By JOANNA BAILE AND ADRIAN LEE

DIANA, Princess of Wales, continued her holiday with the businessman, Mohamed Al Fayed yesterday amid criticism that the trip was "ill advised". The Princess and her sons were pictured with Mr Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, and his wife on board his yacht off the Côte d'Azur, prompting adverse comment in several newspapers.

The criticism, by anonymous "royal and political sources", was described as "spiteful and unfair" by Mr Al Fayed's senior aide yesterday. Michael Cole, director of public affairs at Harrods, said Mr Al Fayed had been "vindicated" by Sir Gordon Downey over his involvement in the Commons "lash for questions" controversy.

He said yesterday: "This is an entirely private holiday. The two families are entitled to their privacy. Fortunately, this intrusion has not spoiled the enjoyment of the royal party or Mr Al Fayed."

A factor in the Princess's decision to accept the invitation was said to have been a recent picture of the Queen, accompanied by Mr Al Fayed, presenting the prizes at a Windsor horse show he had organised. The holiday would also have been approved by Prince of Wales because of the involvement of Prince William and Prince Harry. Detectives from the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Branch have accompanied the group.

The Princess does not have a public relations adviser and relies on a dwindling number of aides. Her former public relations adviser, Jane Atkinson, who resigned last year, declined to comment yesterday. However, Max Clifford, the public relations consultant, said: "The Princess

would have gone into this with her eyes wide open. She has had some major PR successes with her campaign to ban landmines and with the sale of her dresses for charity."

"Mr Al Fayed has helped to show up the likes of Neil Hamilton and Jonathan Aiken. One of the reasons why she is the most popular member of the Royal Family is because she mixes with all sorts of people and understands how most of us think and feel."

The Princess and her sons, who recently started their school holidays, flew to Cannes on Friday in one of Mr Al Fayed's private aircraft and joined the yacht *Sakara*, named after an Egyptian god, on Saturday. Mr Al Fayed and his wife Fin own a £10 million villa in St Tropez, as well as the yacht, said to be worth about £20 million.

Last year the Princess declined Mr Al Fayed's offer to become a consultant director of Harrods International, a position which was accepted by her stepmother, the former Raine Spencer.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said yesterday: "Holiday arrangements are entirely private between the Princess, the Prince of Wales and their children."

□ The Princess's personal assistant, Louise Reid-Carr, has become the latest member of her staff to resign. Miss Reid-Carr, 35, a former air hostess, was paid £25,000 a year and left after six months. She worked as one of a team of three sorting out mail, engagements, and royal holidays. At her home in Bournemouth, she said yesterday: "I really enjoyed my job but felt it was the right time to leave."

Diary, page 20



A mural on Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast, illustrates nationalist anger with Mo Mowlam over the Drumcree march

## March truce boosts peace hopes

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE "tremendous spirit of relief" felt after the Ulster marching season reached a relatively untroubled climax will encourage the search for peace, a leading churchman said yesterday.

Tens of thousands of Orangemen marched without confrontation after their decision to call off or re-route their most contentious July 12 parades. Afterwards there was rioting in Belfast and Londonderry in which several RUC officers were injured.

The unrest was not, however, of the scale after the Drumcree march on July 6, which infuriated nationalists. Tensions were defused by the Orangemen's announcement last Thursday that the July 12 parades would be restricted.

Archbishop Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, said yesterday that

there was a mood of conciliation. "This tremendous spirit of relief is bound to carry the process forward."

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, pledged to use the new climate to press ahead with the multiparty talks which resume at Stormont tomorrow. She told Sky News: "We have to stabilise the democratic process. The last thing we want in Northern Ireland at the moment is a political vacuum."

Dr Mowlam said she would like to see Sinn Féin at the talks, but that the IRA must first declare an unequivocal ceasefire. "We have made it patently clear the ball is in their court."

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said it was "wishful thinking" to believe that the IRA would renew its ceasefire, citing the gun and bomb attack

on a security patrol in North Belfast and the shooting of two teenagers at a loyalist bonfire on Friday night.

He told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "The attacks... show the real character of Irish republicanism. While there was less violence than there would have been [at the weekend], Irish republicanism demonstrated that they have been looking for opportunities to create violence."

□ Five people appeared at Limavady Magistrates Court charged with riotous assembly in Londonderry in the early hours of yesterday.

□ Security forces were believed to have uncovered a substantial quantity of explosives on a nationalist estate in Londonderry yesterday. Homes were evacuated as army bomb experts dealt with the discovery.

## Standing room only for Opera House's swansong

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE organiser of the live screening of tonight's Royal Opera House gala into Covent Garden's Piazza has expressed dismay that the outside audience will have to stand throughout the performance. The gala is being held to mark the house's two-year closure for redevelopment.

Susanna Little, of Aquarius Productions, was told by Westminster council that, for health and safety reasons, the event would not go ahead unless she complied with their request. In previous years, part of the enjoyment lay in people being able to relax, she said. No one from Westminster council was available for comment.

It is unlikely that anyone can actually force people to stand. Ms Little said: "I will have complied with the health and safety officer in telling people they can't sit down."

The gala performance, to be attended by the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret, marks the closure of the 138-year-old building for its £214 million redevelopment. The Farewell Gala is being broadcast live on BBC2, and a huge crowd will see it free of the charge on the big screen in the piazza. Details of the programme are being kept secret beyond that the tenor Plácido Domingo and ballerina Darcey Bussell are among the star performers.

During the closure, the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies will perform at a variety of theatres and halls. The house has been widely criticised for its delay and indecision in finding alternative venues. In an interview on BBC Radio 3 on Saturday, the opera house's music director, Bernard Haitink, expressed concern at the problems that had been encountered.

Tonight's performance starts at 7.30pm; piazza promoters are advised to arrive from 5.30pm or 6pm.

## Medieval 'gospel factory' site found

Archaeologists believe they have found the site of a "gospel factory" on Lindisfarne, the cradle of Christianity in Britain. The team from Leicester University is excavating an early medieval settlement on Holy Island, off the Northumberland coast.

The Green Shield site was found to contain large quantities of cattle bones from animals whose skin would have been turned into vellum, the raw material not only for the Lindisfarne Gospels, but also for many other manuscripts.

## 12,000-mile pedal

A cyclist has completed a 12,000-mile charity ride from England to Australia. Tom Fremantle rode from Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire, to the village's namesake in the suburbs of Perth. "I've been waiting for 16 months to see the Swanbourne sign," he said.

## Festival arrests

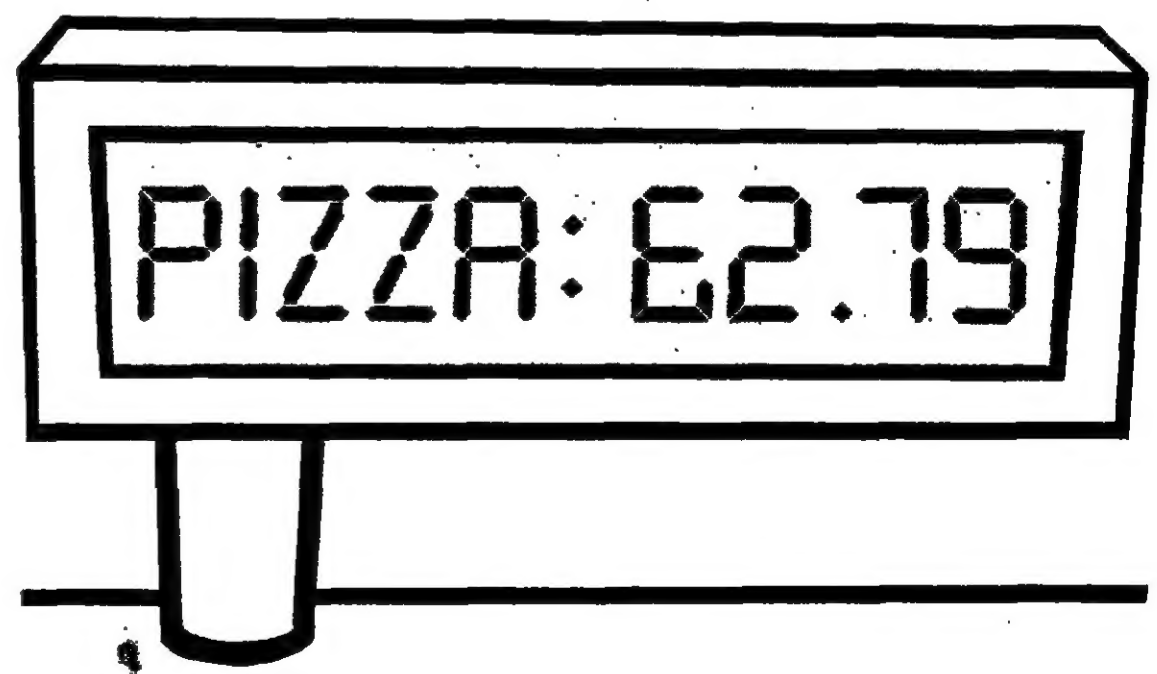
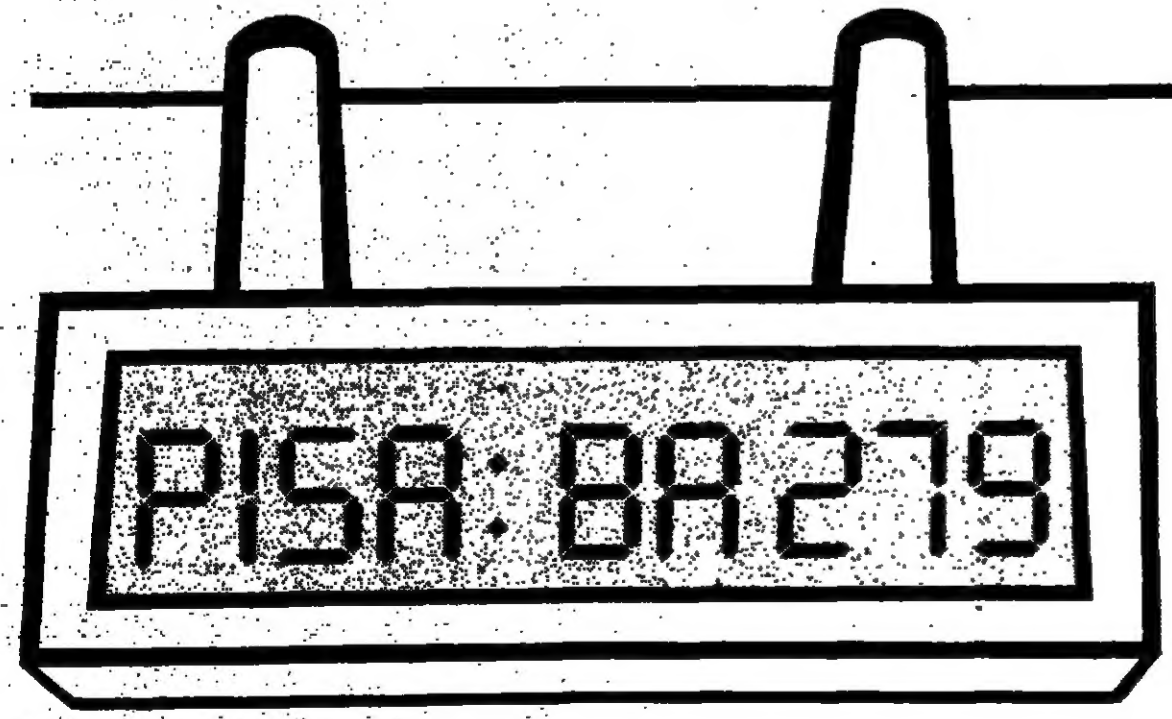
About 50 arrests, mostly for drug possession, were made during the three-day Severn Rebels music festival in Blaisdon, Gloucestershire. One person was arrested for illegal possession of a shotgun, found in a car beneath a basket of fresh pike.

## West house sale

The house at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, in which the serial killer Frederick West buried his eldest daughter Charmaine, is to be sold at auction. The dilapidated three-storey building, turned into three flats, is expected to make up to £40,000.

## Groom bailed

A bridegroom arrested at his stag party has been bailed to go on his honeymoon. Darryl Jones, 24, of Bearty, Warwickshire, was arrested with eight friends on Friday when violence erupted during his stag night but was released for just over an hour to get married.



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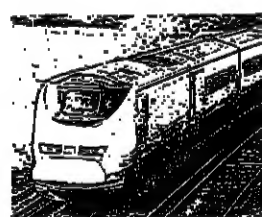
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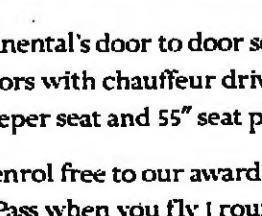
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## A-level analysis finds boys do better in single-sex schools

John O'Leary on a new perspective to co-ed debate

BOYS gain more from single-sex education than girls, according to research that will reignite the debate over the advantages of segregating the sexes at school.

An analysis of last year's A-level results by the Department for Education and Employment shows that boys in single-sex schools did about 20 per cent better than those in mixed sixth-forms. Girls in single-sex schools also outperformed their co-educational counterparts, but the gap was narrower.

Previous comparisons of results have focused on the impact of single-sex education on girls, who have been thought to be disadvantaged by more assertive boys. But concern about boys' performance, highlighted in this month's White Paper on schools, has encouraged a new

perspective. The analysis, commissioned by Tim Devlin, an education consultant who represents several single-sex schools, shows that boys-only state schools averaged 20.5 points per candidate at A level on the UCAS university entrance scale, compared with 16.6 in mixed schools. In the independent sector, single-sex schools scored an average of 25.3 points against the mixed schools' 21.7.

Girls in single-sex state schools achieved an average of 19.2 points, against 16.8 in co-education. The independent school equivalent was 24 points in girls-only sixth-forms and 21 points for mixed schools.

Much of the difference can be attributed to leading schools shunning the move to

co-education which has taken place in state and independent education. The majority of grammar schools remain single-sex, as do many of the most famous in the independent sector, such as Eton and the St Paul's schools in London.

However, the size of the gap in A-level results will prompt new questions about the impact of co-education. Some mixed comprehensives have resorted to single-sex classes for younger ages in an attempt to improve results.

Martin Hammond, headmaster of the boys-only Tonbridge School, Kent, which finished tenth in *The Times*'s A-level league table last summer, said: "Much depends, of course, on a school's entry, and single-sex

schools do tend to be more selective. Nevertheless, these figures suggest that it may well be easier to establish academic momentum in a single-sex school, where boys feel greater freedom to be themselves and to develop as they wish, without pressure to conform to a boy stereotype."

Martin Stephen, headmaster of the boys-only Manchester Grammar School, said mixed schools often did not make sufficient allowance for the different rate of development between boys and girls. Alan Smithers, head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, who published a study of mixed- and single-sex school results last year, said many of the differences disap-

peared when schools of similar intakes were compared. "It is true that boys' single-sex schools do outstandingly well at GCSE and A level, but it is an extremely complicated area because there are so many different types of school."

A subsequent analysis by Professor Smithers shows that segregation makes little difference to girls' results in comprehensive schools, while boys do slightly better in mixed comprehensives.

At A level, single-sex schools' better grades could be partly a matter of higher staying-on rates and transfers between schools, Professor Smithers said. "While our findings cannot be regarded as conclusive, we can at least be sure that separating the sexes does not have an effect on exam results on all occasions."



Elizabeth France, who made her own protest against BT by blocking her numbers under its callback scheme

## Bill-payer makes a stand for customers' right to privacy

ELIZABETH FRANCE, the Data Protection Registrar who is launching a crusade against junk mail, has had a gas account for more than 25 years. As with any other customer, the company knows how many times she has moved, how she pays her bills and when she pays.

It is valuable information for direct-mail companies but Miss France is adamant that monopoly utility companies should not treat her personal files or anyone else's in a cavalier fashion.

Miss France, 47, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, has been Data Protection Registrar for three years, establishing herself as a formidable defender of fundamental rights. She made her own stand against BT's callback scheme — where customers can find out the number of the last person who called them. Miss France, a mother of three, had her home and office numbers blocked.

She has refused to listen to

Junk mail is more than twice as irritating as the use of mobile phones in public places or motorists hogging the middle lane of a motorway, according to an NOP survey of 1,500 Britons. Uninvited mail — known as direct marketing — is top of the list of nuisances, nominated by 65 per cent of those questioned. From an expenditure of £5.5 billion — in printing, postage, holding and updating customer databases — direct marketing produced a record £23 billion in sales last year. A total of 3.27 billion items were delivered, more than two thirds to private homes. That means the average targeted household receives two items of junk mail a week.

pleadings from businessmen who say it is too expensive for them to give members of the public details of the personal record held on them. Miss France's view is intransigent: "Companies know about data protection laws and know they must comply with them. They should have set up systems that can do the job. There's no point them coming to me saying it is going to cost them £1,000 to give someone the information."

Her job is certain to expand as more people become familiar with computer technology

and wake up to the fact that companies are passing on information about them.

The White Paper on data protection which will be published later this month is likely to rename Miss France as the Information or Privacy Commissioner. A change in her title might prove beneficial, as many people consider Data Protection Registrar rather impersonal and would more easily relate to a Privacy Commissioner, as exists in Canada and New Zealand.

Miss France has a strong grounding on privacy issues

— as a civil servant at the Home Office she was involved in the development of privacy policy spanning the governments of James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher. Her tough stance to the job may also spring from another previous responsibility. Her non-sensory, direct style stood her in good stead as an official in charge of headline strategies on special police operations and combating the drugs menace.

For much of her career she has been based in the North West, unusually for a senior government official. Previously she was head of information and pay services for the Home Office in Bootle, Merseyside, and has made her family home in Cheshire.

She guards the privacy of her personal life with zeal but in her public duties she is forthcoming and open. A lot more will be heard of her in the coming months as she prepares to simplify the data protection issues.

## Trial time limits may cut prison crowding

By Stewart Tendler  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

STATUTORY time limits on bringing cases to trial aimed at cutting the number of remand prisoners are being considered by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and other ministers to cut the rising prison population.

Setting time limits along the lines of the system in Scotland would force the pace of hearings. In some parts of the country, including London, a defendant can spend months awaiting trial and a quarter of the 60,000 jail inmates are on remand.

Other plans under consideration according to Home Office sources yesterday include ways of ending repeated adjournments of cases and the waste caused by last minute changes of plea. Both lead to remand prisoners being held for longer than necessary.

Proposals to speed up the remand system and to introduce tougher community sentences are expected to be put forward before the end of the year. The Government is also looking at ways of increasing prison space by renting privately-built jails which would be run by prison officers.

Tougher sentences will depend partly on greater use of tagging to enforce curfews. The Government has already said that the use of tags will be extended to non-violent prisoners on early release.

But Mr Straw, speaking yesterday on BBC Radio 4's *World This Weekend*, denied reports that he will plea with judges to make greater use of the community penalties. He said he wanted an informed debate on what were the most appropriate sentencing arrangements. Public confidence in the sentences was low but if they were more effective, judges would be keener to use them, he said.

Mr Straw said that in the short term his job was to find places for offenders being sent into custody. But in the longer term he had to try to ensure "greater safety for the public" and that community sentences had a significant role.

## August car rush may be spread out

By Arthur Leathley  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are preparing to abandon the annual change to car registrations and replace it with twice-yearly new number plates.

The current system, which has been criticised by car manufacturers for causing a surge in demand each August and consequent production problems, is expected to end by the end of the century. Almost a quarter of the two million new cars sold each year are registered in August.

Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, is planning to announce within the next month plans for a new bi-annual registration, possibly in March and September. But it is unlikely to begin until the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has completed the introduction of a new computer system in 1999.

Mr Strang is also understood to be interested in a system of regional registrations to help police to identify cars owned by terrorist suspects. But he believes that a rash change could create confusion among police forces and is keen to make sure that such a system is effective.

## Lloyds Bank Base Rate.

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# Firm paid thousands for tie-up

REPORTS BY CRAIG LORD, ANDREW JENNINGS AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO local authorities that paid Hamilton Bland for advice about building swimming pools are considering legal action after *The Times* investigation showed he had been paid commission to help a particular engineering firm to win contracts.

A dossier of letters from the BBC commentator over five years shows how he helped a Dutchman to win deals to install movable floors in new pools throughout Britain. Mr Bland's reward was 5 per cent of the earnings.

Bank statements and cheque stubs prove that Mr Bland was being paid to help Han Mooyor, whose Hertfordshire company, Polyfloor, was one of two leading firms capable of installing the new equipment.

The *Times* spoke to Mr Bland on his mobile phone and asked why he had been paid 5 per cent commission by Mr Mooyor's company. Mr Bland replied: "I think you've had all the information. This investigation has been going for ... months now ... you have been asked to speak to my solicitors."

Movable floors allow a pool to be deepened for competitive events and to be made shallower to cater for children and learners. Councils can effectively get two pools for the price of one.

In the letters, Mr Bland boasts to Mr Mooyor about his influence with decision-makers in the swimming world, his knowledge of proposed pools, and how he can write into the specifications that a movable floor is needed.

Mr Mooyor said he met the commentator in 1989 when Mr Bland, also facilities consultant of the Amateur Swimming Association, indicated that he would be prepared to act as an agent on commission. At the time Mr Mooyor, who is disabled by arthritis and frequently confined to a wheelchair, was experiencing the difficulties of recession.

Mr Bland had become the gatekeeper to the pool industry. His BBC job gave him prestige and the ASA facilities position opened every town hall door.

We met at a hotel in March 1989 and Mr Bland said he had two jobs lined up for me, one in Aberdeen and the other at Hucknall, Nottinghamshire. I could have those jobs in return for 5 per cent commissions."

In early 1990, plans were under way to build the Westhill pool in Aberdeen. Mr Bland wrote to Mr Mooyor: "Good news ... I did persuade them to include a movable floor." Mr Bland then wrote a confidential letter to Gordon District Council, which was building the Aberdeen pool, comparing the merits of Polyfloor and its main rival, another Dutch-owned firm, Polymarin. He listed seven good points about Polyfloor and six bad points about Polymarin.

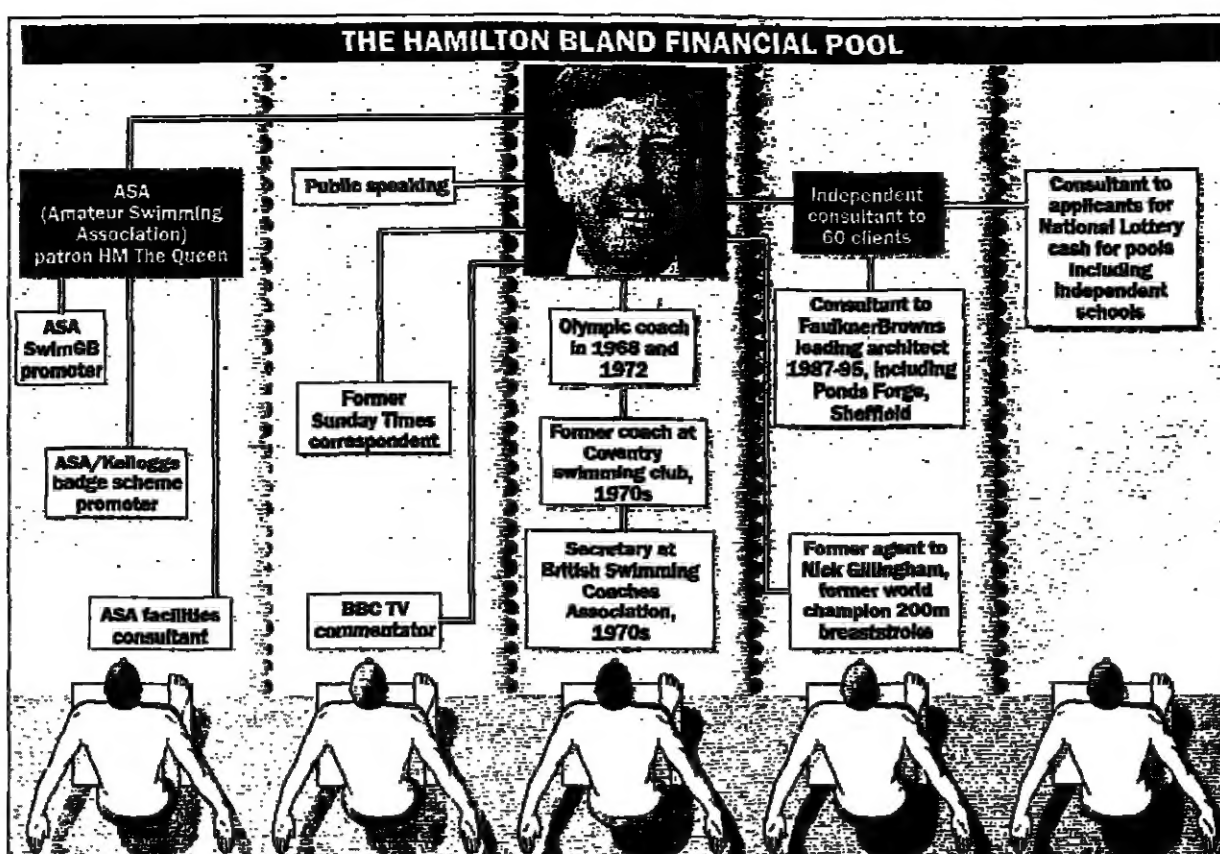
The investigation was carried out by *The Times* and Granada TV's *World in Action*. Its programme *Winning the Pools* is screened tonight at 8pm.

Gordon council chose to install Mr Mooyor's product and Mr Bland earned himself £7,515.95.

As a Scottish authority, Gordon council did not come under the auspices of the ASA but Mr Bland was working as its private consultant.

Alan Grant, an area manager for Aberdeenshire council, which superseded Gordon in the local government reorganisation, said after hearing of *The Times* investigation that the authority was considering its legal options.

In January 1991, Mr Bland wrote to Mr Mooyor: "I am enclosing a copy of the relevant section of my design brief for the Hucknall pool which gives your full company details." Seven months later, Mr Bland sent Mr Mooyor an invoice for £7,342.68. Ken



Coles, director of community services at Ashfield council, which commissioned the Hucknall pool, said that it was very concerned about the relationship between Mr Bland, its consultant, and the supplier, Mr Mooyor. It is seeking legal advice.

May 11, 1989: Mr Bland writes to Mr Mooyor confirming their understanding that he would provide introductions for 15 pool projects. "I think we should agree that I will be paid a minimum of 5 per cent of any of these successful projects."

May 25, 1989: Mr Bland describes two officials of a London pool considering the installation of a movable floor

as "both close friends of mine. I do feel that I am in a position to have an enormous influence on the success or otherwise of this project. Perhaps ... you could advise me of what sort of commission you feel would be appropriate under these circumstances."

March 13, 1990: Mr Bland writes that he is representing the Irish Government which is creating a National Sports Centre in Dublin. "Obviously, you know that I will try to write Polyfloor into the final specifications."

March 15, 1990: Mr Bland writes: "The new National Sports Centre for Ireland is hotting up. I am advising all of the architects involved in the

project as well as the Irish Government." He says he will push Mr Mooyor's case.

September 23, 1990: Mr Bland writes: "I have come to the conclusion that you need help on the sales side and that I can provide such help. Obviously, it is best provided in an 'independent' way. I would like to propose that I work with you closely on every enquiry in order that I can (a) influence the client about the advantage of movable floors, (b) monitor any competition, and (c) give you much greater exposure ..."

December 8, 1990: Mr Bland writes to a leisure centre manager in Berkshire: "The Amateur Swimming Association would strongly suggest the inclusion of a movable floor in the pool so as to cater for competitive swimming, synchronised swimming, water polo but, most importantly, the disabled and the teaching of swimming."

December 17, 1990: Mr Bland writes telling Mr Mooyor that the Sports Council will complete a formal study on all types of movable floors. "I am very involved. Our interests will be well protected!" He says he will make sure that floors are included in pools being built in Sligo and Cork, where he is

advising the Irish Government. In Jersey, "Regent Tigers ASC and St Michael's School are to build a £1.3 million pool. I am consultant. It will have a floor!"

July 22, 1993: Mr Bland writes to Mr Mooyor: "... the ongoing support and influence that I exert with architects and others ... is enormous". By then the business relationship was deteriorating.

October 5, 1994: Mr Bland's solicitors, Blythe Liggins, write to Mr Mooyor demanding payment. "It appears to us that our client is entitled to commission from you at the rate of 5 per cent on all UK and Ireland projects."

October 31, 1994: Blythe Liggins write to Mr Mooyor: "We are instructed by our client that the Clickimin and Birkenhead projects are now complete at £225,000 and £120,000 respectively. "Our client is entitled to 5 per cent commission, making a total of £17,250, and unless we hear from you with a cheque by no later than November 10, 1995, proceedings will be taken without further notice." Mr Mooyor declined to pay and has yet to be sued. He had paid Mr Bland a total of almost £30,000.

Leading article, page 21

## Sports Council warned ASA about conflict of interest

### LOTTERY FUNDING

THE Sports Council warned the Amateur Swimming Association about Mr Bland's possible conflict of interest two years ago, according to secret minutes, but the ASA still renewed his contract as "facilities consultant".

In his official part-time role, Mr Bland provides ASA advice to the Sports Council when it decides which swimming projects should benefit from the National Lottery.

As a private consultant, he is paid to advise applicants who are bidding for lottery cash to build new pools. These include fees only payable if the grant is awarded.

The perceived conflict of interest is most striking in Coventry, where he stands to earn a large fee if the independent schools he is privately advising are awarded lottery funds. At the same time, through the ASA, he is providing advice for Coventry City Council's own swimming pool bid.

Mr Bland, in his guise as private consultant, has already sent an invoice for £16,056.01 to the Coventry Schools Foundation of independent schools for preparing and submitting its lottery bid. This was approved for payment by a governor in January 1996.

Mr Bland's additional fee would be 2.5 per cent of construction costs. At the original price of £2.5 million, that would have earned him £62,500. But with the current estimate of £4 million, he would get £100,000 if the same rate was maintained. The bid has been delayed by a Charity Commission investigation into a separate, unrelated issue.

The deputy leader of Coventry City Council, Arthur Waugh, has called for an investigation into whether there is a conflict of interest. Mr Bland is also advising the Perse School in Cambridge on a £3.6 million lottery bid. "There is a performance element in our arrangement," Nigel Richardson, the headmaster, said. Mr Bland's lawyers, Olszang, confirm that in Cambridge he is paid a submission fee for work prior to lottery funding being granted, and "a success fee covering the work which is carried out subsequently".

Nationally, Mr Bland has helped prepare drafts of the ASA's strategy for the distribution of 50 metre and 25 metre competition pools, to be built with the aid of lottery grants.

In July 1995, David Sparkes, chief executive of the ASA, met Mr Bland to discuss "the Sports Council's expressed concern that the ASA facilities consultant and could therefore be perceived to have a conflict of interest". Mr Bland said he would be happy to agree to advise Mr Sparkes confidentially about any private contracts so the chief executive could judge whether another facilities consultant should represent the ASA.

The meeting recommended negotiating a new two-year arrangement with Mr Bland rather than advertise for a full-time consultant, which would have been more costly.

The English Sports Council, which has replaced the Sports Council, remains unhappy with Mr Bland dividing his time between official duties and private consultancy work. It wants the ASA to appoint a dedicated swimming pools chief. "We believe there is a conflict between his role as a facilities adviser to the ASA and any work which he undertakes preparing schemes," a spokesman said.

### Letters from Bland about council contracts

Dear Han,

I have come to the conclusion that you need help on the sales side and that I can provide such help. Obviously, it is best provided in an 'independent' way. I would like to propose that I work with you closely on every inquiry...

September 23, 1990

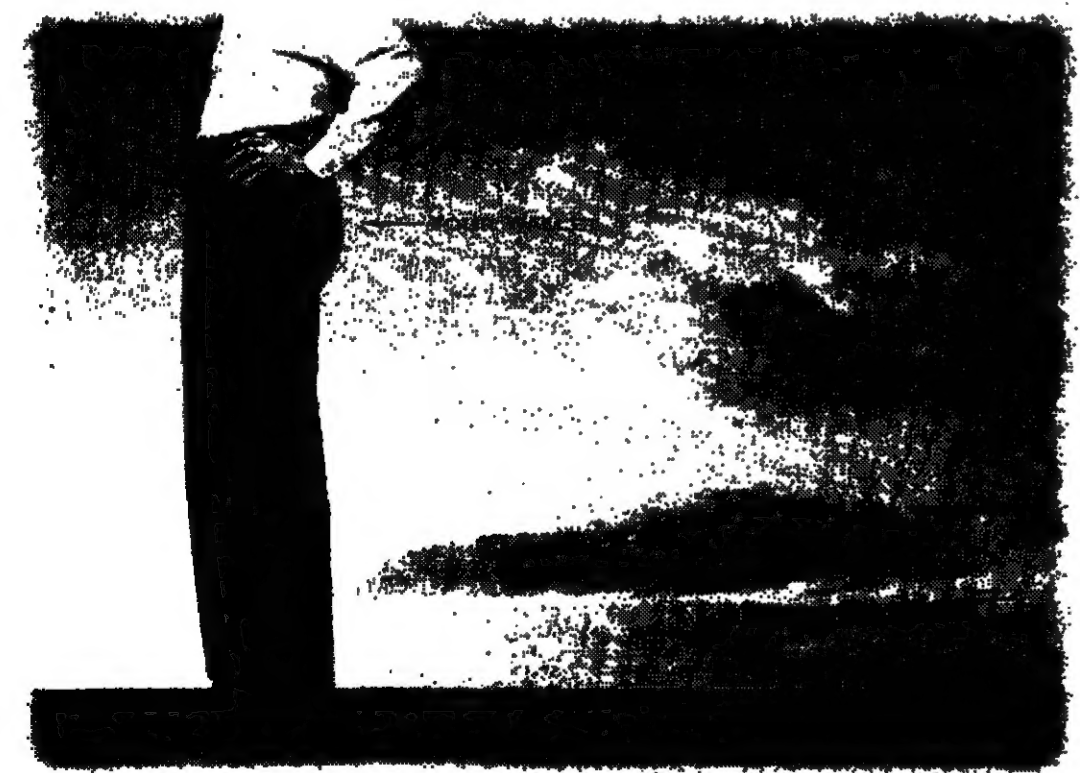
I think we should agree that I will be paid a minimum of 5 per cent on any of these successful projects

May 11, 1989



Hamilton Bland

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# From shopkeeper's son to a squire

## Lure of making a million drove Bland's career

LIFESTYLE

HAMILTON BLAND, 54, the son of a second-hand shopkeeper from Bolton, lives like a squire of the manor in a secluded mansion in Warwickshire, lovingly tending his collection of classic cars. His Aston Martin has the numberplate SWWM.

Nicky, his second wife, a former schoolteacher and swimming baths attendant in Coventry, acts as hostess at his parties in the 16-bedroom Honiley Hall, a mock-Elizabethan house built at the turn of the century.

Mr Bland's sumptuous lifestyle is all the more surprising since only ten years ago he lost

business interests. On his last day in the city he told the local paper: "I have this disease called ambition - I'm driven by it... I think I have the ability and the opportunity to make a million."

Explaining why he needed a red Ferrari with a personalised number plate LEB 3 (his middle name is Edwin), he explained: "I like to look good, feel good. Even being seen in a quality car - it's part of the image."

Mr Bland moved to an eight-bedroom mansion set in six acres of the village of Leek Wootton in Warwickshire, complete with stables, staff

**"I saw others making lots of money. I thought, Why not me?"**

cottage, orange-ry and 60ft pool with whirlpool bath and sauna. He named the pool the International Swimming Pool Equipment Exhibition Centre and every fortnight hosted a seminar for council purchasing officers. Visitors were treated to lavish lunches

while they admired the £8,000 Italian marble statuary.

Around the pool were 20 exhibition booths for companies manufacturing swimming-pool equipment. Mr Bland launched his own range of products including goggles, caps and shampoo. The final touch: a "Hamilton Bland International Clock" for your changing room wall.

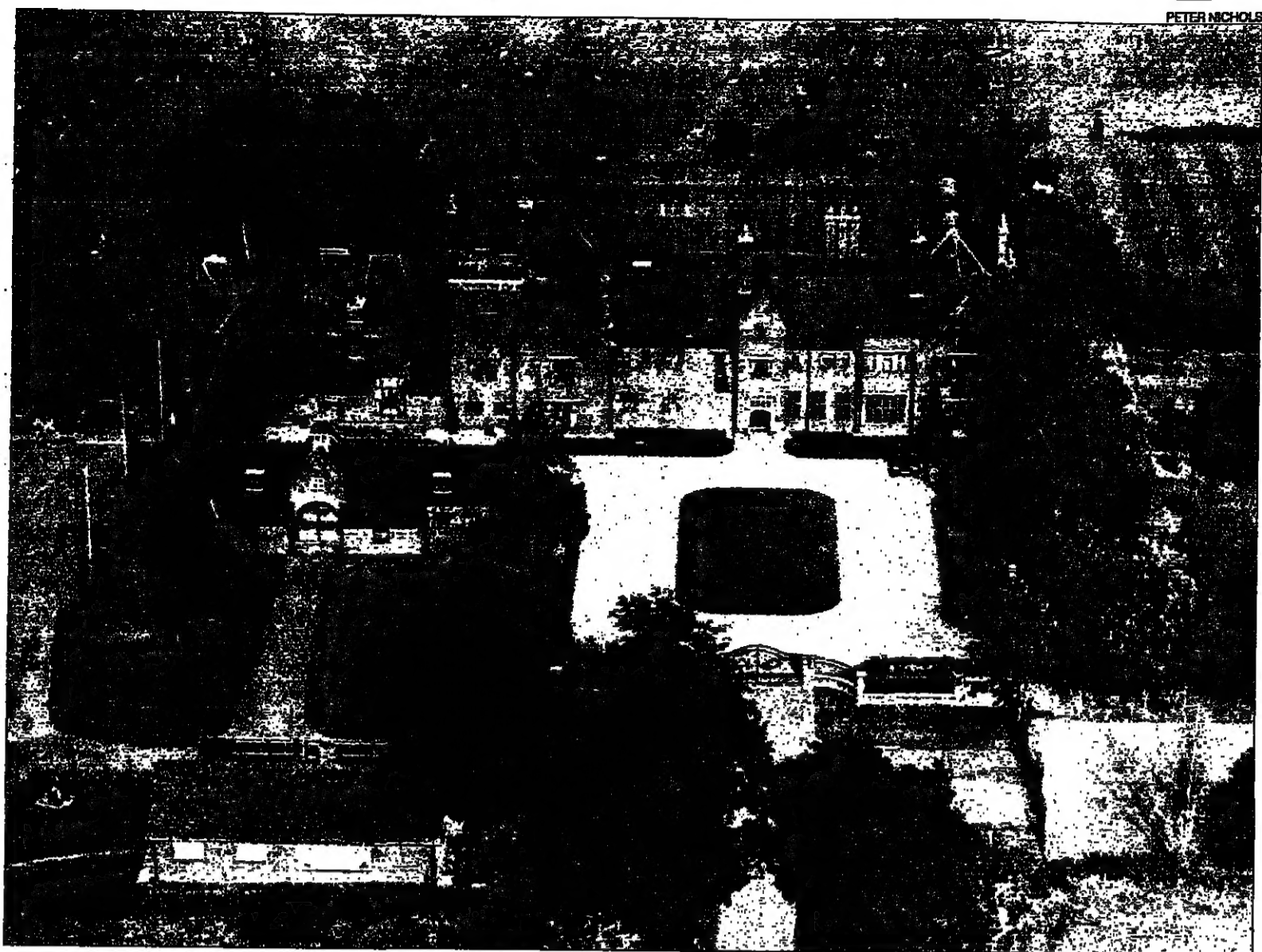
At 39, he estimated his assets were worth more than £1 million. Soon he had a helicopter, and a Rolls-Royce Corniche, numberplate OSG ("Life is Oh So Good"), he would explain.

Mr Bland launched a Business Expansion Scheme but it failed and in 1987 the liquidators arrived.

He became an adviser to Faulkner Browns, leisure architects, from 1987 to 1995, earning £7,000 as an ad hoc

consultant whom members of staff could ring for technical information.

In 1988, he became facilities consultant to the ASA. He was also hired by Faulkner Browns to advise on the design of the Fords Forge pool complex in Sheffield, built for the 1991 World Student Games. His fee is undisclosed but was a percentage of the £50 million



Honiley Hall, Hamilton Bland's mansion in Warwickshire. He bought it in a state of disrepair from the council for more than £500,000

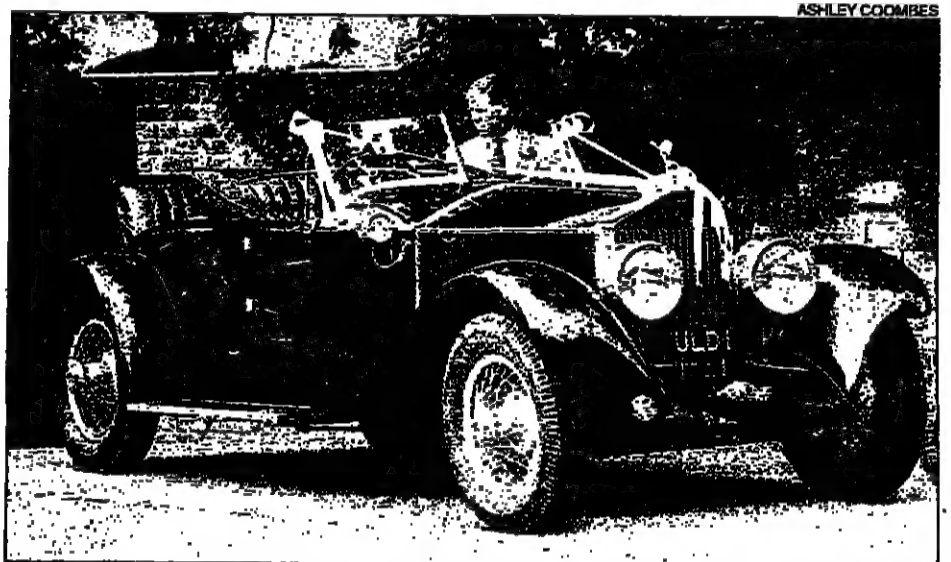


Bland's 'unregistered' coat of arms and motto

bill. Faulkner Browns has confirmed.

After a divorce, he married Nicky, with whom he has had three sons. The family moved into Honiley Hall, bought in a state of disrepair from Warwickshire County Council for more than £500,000. It has been extensively refurbished.

At the entrance to the driveway are sign boards displaying a coat of arms with the motto *Labor Amor Felicitas*. The College of Arms has no registration of a design for Mr Bland. He has an air-conditioned, floodlit garage for his rare cars, including a bull-nose Morris and a Rolls-Royce, registration ULD1. As Mr Bland said after making his first million: "I saw other people making lots of money. I thought, 'Why not me?'"



One of Mr Bland's rare cars, which is kept in a floodlit, air-conditioned garage

## Secrecy over payments from scheme with £1.65m turnover

SALES OF CHILDREN'S BADGE

THE swimming badge scheme, run for 32 years by the highly respected Lily Cook from her kitchen table in Essex, has become an even bigger moneyspinner for the Amateur Swimming Association since Mr Bland took it over.

It now has a turnover of at least £1.65 million a year, of which a net figure of £779,000 goes to the ASA, providing the largest part of the governing body's income.

But Mr Bland's own payment for revamping the awards, now sponsored by Kellogg's with Tony the Tiger as mascot, is a private arrangement known to very few, among them Alan Clarkson, the ASA's treasurer, and David Sparkes, its chief executive.

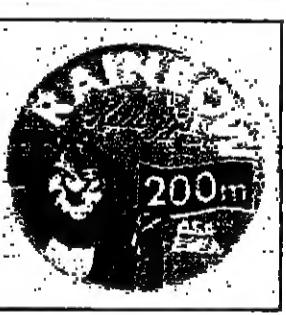
While the main terms of the promotion agreement between Mr Bland and the ASA were reported to the ruling committee in 1995, the committee then seems to have taken the unusual decision to deny itself updates, resolving that "in order not to compromise any contractual agreement, the committee had unanimously agreed to seek no further

information on the contract". Karen Pickering, former world freestyle champion, said: "They can sit at home and not worry about where the money might be going while others, like so many swimmers, are worrying about where their next penny is coming from."

"It's disgraceful that they can say they don't want to know details of a contract. If they are not interested, it's too much trouble, then get out of our sport."

Mrs Cook, who distributed 15 million badges to generations of children, did more than anyone to put the ASA on a sound financial footing. She and her husband used to write certificates in longhand and called on a band of eager girl helpers to stuff envelopes at peak times. Six years ago, she was replaced by Mr Bland.

The price of each badge was increased from 60p to 90p and then again to £1.10. Income to the ASA has increased by a total of £2,027,000 since Mr Bland took over the awards, although the governing body



still gets only 47p out of every £1, leading to speculation about how much the promoter receives every time a child learns to swim an extra length of a pool.

He has a ten-year deal and has increased sales from £1.38 million in Mrs Cook's last year to £1.6 million now.

Three years ago, the ASA put Mr Bland in charge of promoting a new business, SwimGB, which sells official swimming hats and goggles by mail order. He gets 25 per cent of profits or losses. In the past two years, during the start-up period, the company made losses, and Mr Bland has paid his share. The last

quarterly management accounts showed a trading profit for the first time.

Unlike Mrs Cook, who ran her business from home, Mr Bland has the use of two workshop units in Redditch, bought with part of a £361,000 interest-free loan by the ASA to its subsidiary, ASA Enterprises. The unit, which is now home to the badge scheme, was transferred from Mr Bland to the ASA.

The National Audit Office, in a confidential report checking whether the ASA's £150,000-a-year Sports Council grant was being properly spent, expressed serious concern that the ASA's external auditors had been unable to find enough financial information to tell whether the loan was fully recoverable.

Referring to the £361,000 loan, Ms Pickering said: "Well, there are better places our money could be going to. Isn't it just completely the case that the last people to count are the swimmers? Some of our coaches will be paying for their own hotel bills at the European Championships. We are always the last to be considered."

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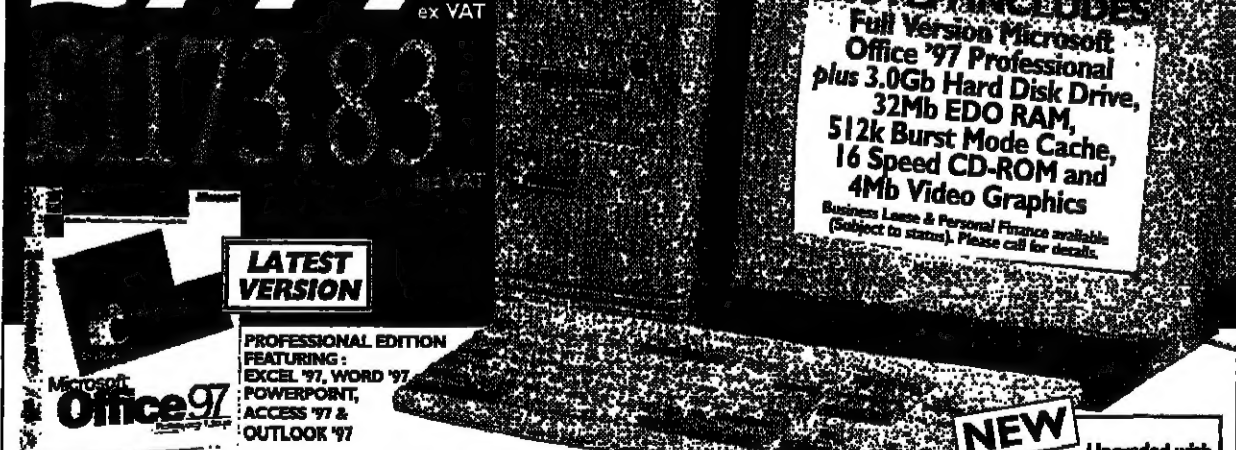
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# Toxic chemical removed from Lords archives

Dalya Alberge reviews a three-year operation to clean historic documents of a cancer-causing preservative

ART restorers have removed a cancer-causing chemical from more than 27,500 original Acts of Parliament in a secret three-year operation.

Staff from Plowden & Smith had to wear masks, gloves and overalls to handle 18,000 contaminated parchment rolls — more than 320 miles long if laid out — and dating to 1497, Henry VII's reign, held in the House of Lords Record Office.

While they removed the fungicide Santobrite by aiming jets of compressed air at the parchment surface, an independent health and safety laboratory monitored conditions and a specialist contractor collected waste stored in special sealed bags within metal drums.

Santobrite, which can be

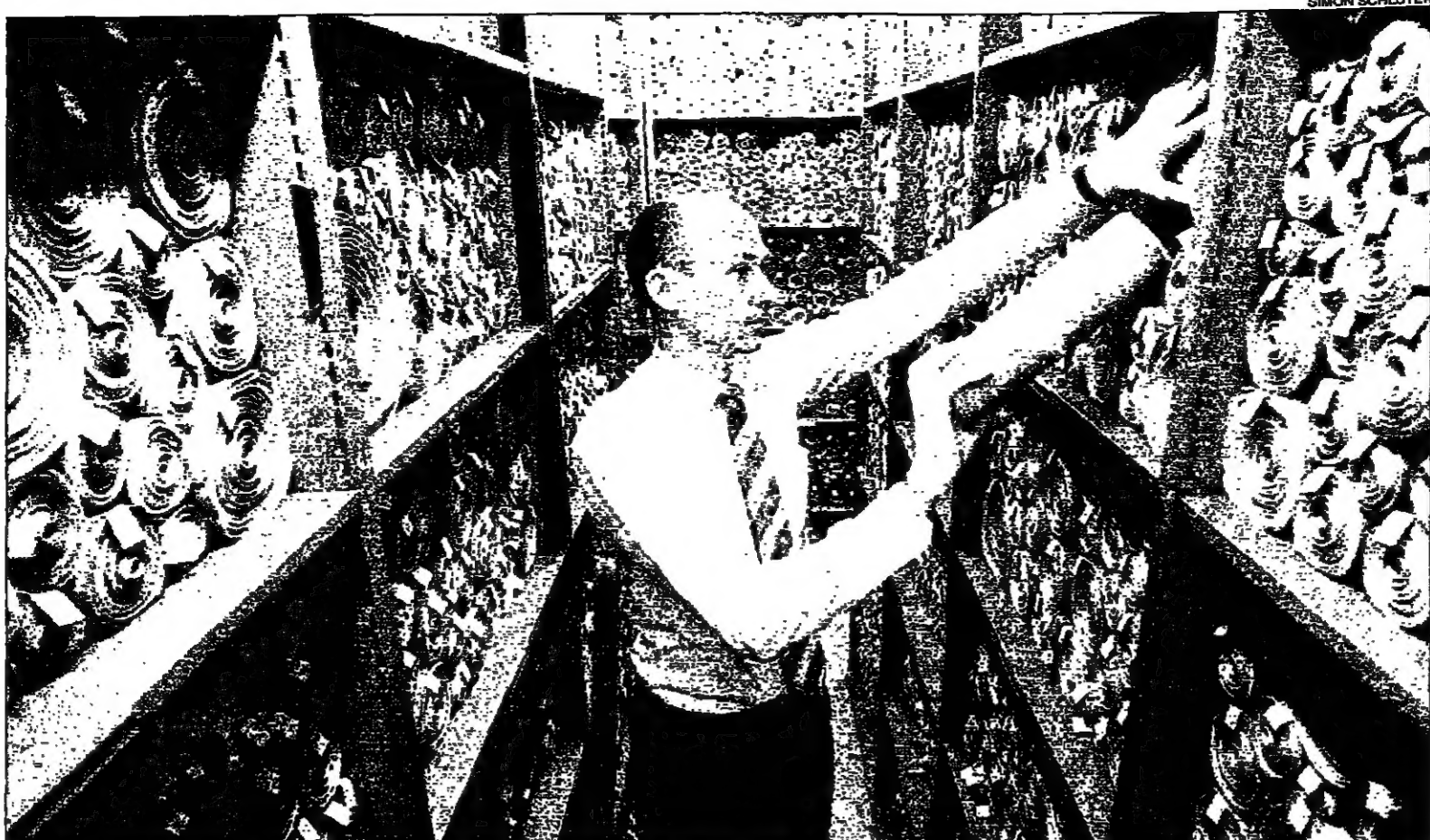
absorbed through the skin, had threatened the health of staff and visitors since it was applied in the late 1940s. But it was not until two years ago that its use was banned, and Plowden & Smith — whose clients include English Heritage and whose team of 35 conservators specialise in all types of materials from furniture to stonework — were brought in. The £630,000 cost of the operation was funded by the Treasury.

Keeping the project secret was necessary for security reasons. Kevin Smith, an associate director of the company, explained that every precaution was taken to guard the documents. The 1689 Bill of Rights, the 1701 Act of Settlement, the 1707 Act of Union are in an archive that includes every Act since 1497, when a clerk at Westminster started collecting them.

Mr Smith said there had been fears of a terrorist group seizing and holding to ransom such documents. "It would have been a great coup for an organisation to have grabbed hold of them," he said.

Transport to the restorers' workshop in Wandsworth involved armoured vehicles. The parchment rolls were protected within a watertight, fireproof, high-security steel box.

Plowden & Smith were commissioned to remove tissue that had been interleaved into the parchment. It had been impregnated with Santobrite — the trade name for sodium



Robert Harrison, an archives officer, sorts through the papers. Among those stored are the 1701 Act of Settlement and the 1707 Act of Union

Pentachlorophene (PCP) — to guard against mould discovered in the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster, where the archive is stored.

"At the time," Mr Smith said, "it was the greatest thing to save everyone's archives." The measure was discontinued in the mid-1950s when air conditioning was introduced. Mr Smith said: "Scientific

analyses revealed that appreciable amounts of the chemical remained in the tissue. Some had migrated into the parchment."

Some 1,500 people ask to view the Acts each year. Gloves which they were asked to wear not only protected the parchment against handling but against contact with the chemical. He added: "The risk

to a member of the public was small. The risk to their own staff was large. They were also doing their own research work. People were not asking to see them all the time. For ourselves, the risk was even more. We were dealing with them 40 hours a week. 52 weeks a year. Health and safety were paramount."

He added that everyone at Plowden was offered a urine test which could detect whether the body had digested anything: "Touch wood, everything was clear."

Plowden & Smith specially designed and built machinery to cope with the mammoth task, removing the tissue and air-brushing the dust from the parchment within a vacuum.

Regular air and surface swab analysis was carried out by an independent health and safety laboratory. Minor conservation work was also carried out, with tears patched and stitching renewed.

Mr Smith observed that as Santobrite was used extensively in the 1940s, "there may well be other archives out there which will need to address the problem."

## Ban on smoking in public debated by ministers

By Polly Newton  
POLITICAL REPORTER

A BAN on smoking in public places and an increase in the minimum age for buying cigarettes are among measures to be discussed by government ministers today at an anti-smoking seminar in London.

The meeting, organised by the Department of Health, will be attended by representatives from sport, business, the arts and advertising. Tobacco makers were not invited.

Speakers will include Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, who will emphasise the Government's determination to reduce smoking, particularly among children and teenagers.

As a backbencher in 1994, Ms Jowell introduced an unsuccessful Bill that proposed an American-style ban on smoking in public places. It is thought that the Government would prefer voluntary agreements with the leisure and entertainment industry rather than legislation.

Ms Jowell said yesterday that the Government would ban smoking in public places only as a last resort. "We will only legislate where it is absolutely clear that measures to protect the health of young people cannot be achieved in other ways."

A source close to one of the ministers involved said yesterday that the seminar had been arranged to produce an exchange of ideas, "not for fixed policy to be determined".

It is understood, however, that ministers will give "serious consideration" over the next few months to raising the minimum for buying cigarettes from 16 to 18. Tougher penalties for shopkeepers who sell to under-age customers and more rigorous enforcement of the existing laws are also on the agenda.

The measures could form part of the White Paper on smoking reduction to be published in the autumn. The paper will set out plans for a ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, with legislation to follow next year.

Leading article, page 21

## Competitive edge that can drive girls to eating disorders

REPORTS that there are five or six cases of anorexia nervosa among the 500 to 600 girls at Millfield School in Somerset should not, by themselves, cause surprise as the incidence is in line with recent estimates of the condition's frequency.

Millfield is one of Britain's most expensive schools and since anorexia nervosa characteristically, but not exclusively, attacks white teenage females of middle and upper class origins with an above average intelligence, a school of this type provides the ideal environment for it to develop. Most pupils come from a rich background but an

unusually high proportion are on scholarships, having shown either exceptional academic or athletic ability. Those from less affluent homes may, therefore, have an unusually competitive nature which is frequently associated with eating disorders.

Although the condition now known as anorexia was first described in 1676, and was labelled anorexia nervosa over 100 years ago, its causes are still unproven. The condition results in the patient having a terror of becoming fat, coupled with an inability to see themselves as they truly are. They visualise themselves as being obese

when in fact they are thin. In order to achieve weight goals which are as unrealistic as they are undesirable, anorexics starve themselves, take laxatives and diuretics and become involved in fanatical exercise regimes.

People with bulimia also vomit after eating, particularly if they have been bingeing. The report

from Millfield that there is an increase in bulimia nervosa as well as anorexia is perhaps more disturbing. Although both conditions are thought to be disorders associated with clinical depression, bulimia is also frequently linked to more serious, and even anti-social, personality disorders.

Research at the University of

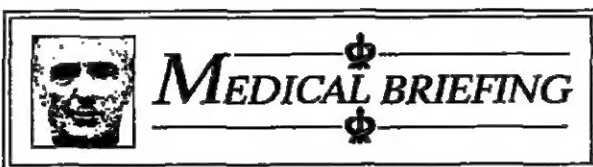
Wales in Bangor has shown that many other mammals can suffer from anorexia. If pigs, sheep or goats are stressed they can become anorexic, a phenomenon which has prompted the researchers to suggest that the condition may be genetically inherited. There is also the suggestion that it may be linked to levels of the neuro-transmitter serotonin, which helps to determine mood.

Gamekeepers have long known that if they demand too much from a highly strung dog during training it frequently reacts by exhibiting extreme food refusal. A person's vulnerability to stress is likely to be

caused by a combination of their genes and the environment in which they live.

Children of the successful must be given every opportunity to excel but parents and teachers, unlike the dog trainer, can never afford to make their acceptance and love dependant on appearance and performance. Changing the child's environment, and diminishing expectations, may prove an easier way of preventing anorexia than altering gene patterns.

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قناة الجزيرة

# Eta murder triggers mass protests

Rubber bullets fired to stop street clashes as emotional outcry against terror erupts

By Giles Tremlett  
IN MADRID AND  
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Basque separatist group, Eta, became the target of nationwide rage and revulsion yesterday following the murder of a young hostage. The news led to protests throughout Spain and led to bloody clashes between outraged demonstrators and Eta supporters.

Trade unions have called on workers throughout Spain to stop work and observe ten minutes of silence today in protest.

"After this murder, Eta is more isolated than ever," Basque political leaders said in a statement. "If they were not loved yesterday, they are despised today."

The Pope denounced the killing as an "act of blood" and a "barbaric murder". France, which has a large Basque community, called it "cowardly". Britain condemned "this brutal killing" and promised full support to Spain in its fight against terrorism.

Miguel Angel Blanco, 29, a Basque town councillor, was shot twice in the head and dumped in a country lane on Saturday afternoon at the end of two days of captivity. He died in hospital yesterday morning.

Basque politicians yesterday halted their attempts to arrange talks between the Government and Eta. They said the killing confirmed that hardliners now controlled both Eta and its legal political ally, Herri Batasuna. "Eta has dealt a mortal blow to our desire for dialogue," said the regional Prime Minister, José Antonio Ardanza, of the moderate Basque Nationalist Party.

Eta had kidnapped Blanco on Thursday and threatened to kill him if the Government



Hundreds gather in front of Seville's city hall to protest at the terrorist murder of 29-year-old Miguel Blanco, who was kidnapped by Eta on Thursday and shot shortly after a deadline expired on Saturday afternoon

did not move 500 Eta prisoners to jails in the Basque country within 48 hours. The Popular Party described the demands as "impossible".

The separatist group ignored the pleas of half a million people who gathered in Bilbao, northern Spain, on Saturday to beg for Señor Blanco's life.

Soon after the deadline ran out he was found by hunters near San Sebastián, northern Spain, with his hands bound together and two bullets lodged in his brain. Doctors said nothing could be done to save his life.

The Government yesterday blamed the killing on Herri Batasuna — the radical politi-

cal party which would represent Eta at peace talks. "Herri Batasuna is an accomplice to this murder," Javier Mayor Oreja, the Interior Minister, said.

The Government called for calm yesterday, but there were angry reactions across Spain.

In the northern city of Pamplona, where the San Fermín bull run was cancelled yesterday, several dozen protesters clashed with supporters of Eta. Police used teargas and fired rubber bullets to end the clashes which occurred outside the offices of Herri Batasuna. Eighteen people were treated for light injuries in hospitals in the city.

In Bilbao, where the Prime

Minister, José María Aznar, had led some half a million people on Saturday demanding Blanco's release, local police managed to prevent the crowd from lynching three youths who mocked pacifists staging a vigil.

Some 2,000 people, shouting "murderers", threw eggs at the San Sebastián office of Eta's political wing.

Police said some 100,000 people had gathered in Zaragoza and 50,000 in Madrid, with other protests in Barcelona, Burgos, Seville, Valencia, Valladolid and Santa Cruz in the Canary Islands.

In Blanco's home village of Ermua, protesters set fire to the offices of Herri Batasuna.

The council has declared three days of mourning and called on all Spanish people to pin black ribbons to their windows in his memory.

Newspapers rounded on Eta, which has stepped up its 30-year campaign for independence this year with ten killings in six months. "Sons of bitches" was the headline in *Diario 16* soon after Blanco's death was announced. "Two bullets fired at us all," the respected *El Mundo* declared; the paper also published photographs of the 21 leaders of Herri Batasuna with a caption blaming them for the situation.

Leading article, page 21



An Eta supporter, smeared in his own blood, taunts anti-terrorism protesters during Pamplona's clashes

## French return painting seized by Nazis

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

A CUBIST masterpiece has been returned to its rightful owner by the French Government, 57 years after it was looted from a Jewish art collector by the Nazis.

*Landscape of Meudon*, by the French artist Albert Gleizes, was one of 900 works displayed by French museums last April to deflect criticism that not enough had been done to find the owners of pillaged art.

The painting, dated 1911, is the first object to be returned from the National Museum of Requisition, a collection of about 2,000 works stolen by the Nazis and never reclaimed after being returned to post-war France.

The abstract landscape was the property of Alphonse Kann, a Jewish collector thought to have been one of the models for Charles Swann in Proust's novel *A la Recherche Du Temps Perdu*.

Kann was in England when the Nazis marched into Paris. Like other Jewish property, his collection, including 1,200 paintings and works by Picasso and Cézanne, was stolen and dispersed by the Nazis. Many of the works were later restored to the Kann family, but some had apparently vanished forever.

At the weekend the painting by Gleizes, worth at least £600,000, was quietly removed from the Pompidou Centre art gallery and returned to Kann's great-nephew, François Warin.

There has been no official announcement of the painting's return and Mr Warin said the lack of fanfare reflected "embarrassment" on the part of French state museums.

The Gleizes was traced by Hector Feliciano, an American journalist, who has repeatedly accused the French authorities of failing in their duty to find the owners of looted Jewish property. He has also traced a Picasso belonging to Kann, but this has yet to be returned from a Rennes museum.

The Nazis disdained Cubist and Impressionist art as "degenerate", but they were prepared to sell or barter such works for art more to the official taste.

The Gleizes landscape appeared on lists compiled by the Nazi group overseeing art "confiscation" in France, and on another catalogue — housed in the French Foreign Ministry — of paintings recovered after the war and returned to France. Kann's heirs were well known in Paris, and returning the painting to them should have been elementary, according to Feliciano.

## Cook to get taste of tough diplomacy on Moscow visit

FROM RICHARD BERTON  
IN MOSCOW

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, could have his diplomatic skills tested to the full today when he begins a two-day visit to Moscow, amid growing Russian displeasure at key issues ranging from Bosnia to "mad cow" disease.

Mr Cook, who arrived late last night in the Russian capital, said before his visit that he was determined to boost Anglo-Russian trade and strengthen bilateral co-operation.

However, even before his plane touched down, he faced a host of pressing problems which Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, is expected to raise today.

Last week the Russians reacted with anger after British troops killed a suspected Bosnian Serb war criminal and arrested another in a NATO operation. Moscow said the move threatened the Dayton peace accords and hinted that they could reconsider the future of their peacekeeping contingent if further "cowboy" actions take place.

The Russians are also likely to repeat their objections to Nato's expansion into Eastern Europe and in particular to warn against any moves that could lead to the Baltic States joining the alliance. Yesterday President Yeltsin reiterated his opposition to allowing Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia into Nato.

As far as Britain is concerned, the Russians may raise two sensitive issues with Mr Cook. First, is the ill-disguised anger felt in the Kremlin when it was discovered that Russia had imported 730 tonnes of banned

British beef because it believed the meat had come from Belgium. Also, the Russians are expected in the coming days to begin the trial of Platon Obukhov, the former Russian diplomat and alleged British spy, whose arrest last year led to a bitter round of tit-for-tat expulsions between London and Moscow.

Nevertheless, Mr Cook said before his departure: "I want to put Russia at the top of the British agenda."

The British are particularly eager to press forward with co-operation on fighting terrorism, crime and

drugs. Last month a customs officer was posted to Moscow under a new arrangement, whereby British and Russian law enforcement agencies will share intelligence and co-ordinate investigations.

St Petersburg: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, left Russia yesterday saying she had had "wonderful" talks with Mr Primakov, but the two remain far apart on some issues. They agreed to extend talks on revising a European arms control pact but clashed over Bosnia and the Baltic states. (Reuters)



Cook: faces Russian ire on wide range of issues

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## Leadership lacking in Europe's new disorder of EMU 'ins' and 'outs'

Summit sessions, especially those involving France, Germany and America, are ending up as chaotic affairs. Scripts worked out over months by "sherpas" are being ripped up and each meeting — the Franco-German talks at Potters, say, or the Amsterdam summit or Madrid — begins with a row. Perhaps this is preferable to the sleepy summits of yesteryear or the orchestral arrangement of Cold War superpower meetings.

It plainly marks a change: not since the days of Margaret Thatcher have European leaders been so much on

### INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

edge. There are three possible explanations. The first is that sherpas can no longer assess the room for manoeuvre of their bosses. This applies to

Germany where Joachim Bitterlich, the foreign policy supremo of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, seems to be in a state of permanent confusion.

Gone are the days when the Chancellor could be presented with short shooting scripts that, with a bit of late-night tailoring, became the core of a final declaration. The Chancellor himself is less able to grasp detail and spot apertures of possible understanding. The Chancellor's hand is being forced by his Bavarian allies and by the other coalition partner, the Free Democrats. He can no longer buy his way out of a deadlock. Co-habiting France similarly

thwarts its sherpas. Yet expectations from the global leaders have never been higher.

Before Madrid, the Americans asked Herr Kohl to bring the French round to accepting three rather than five Nato members, as if this were a matter of corralling some loose cattle.

Herr Bitterlich duly sent draft texts across the Rhine and the Atlantic but failed to seal the deal before Madrid. This suggests a second reason for the New Disorder: that Paris, Bonn and Washington are drifting apart in some fundamental way. The

disagreements between Paris and Bonn are legion. The balance in the axis changed after unification: Germany became bigger and less dependent. For the past five years formal Franco-German relations have tried to camouflage the shift in power. The euro was supposed to fix the friendship but merely lays bare the great gulf — the German fear of inflation versus the French fear of deflation.

Washington meanwhile finds it increasingly difficult to handle either of these European powers. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, complains of Amer-

ican hegemony and postures boldly. Herr Kohl, unable to be Herr Europe, the single voice that America craves, has become less interesting. Common ground is being eaten away, lapped up by the Atlantic tides.

The third possibility is that there are too many summits with too little substance. Western leaders are thus too often being exposed to each other's clichés.

Arguments fill the vacuum. The effect is rather like that of a married couple who having survived happily over the years cannot cope with the constant togetherness of retirement.

Summits are essential in time of reconstruction or boundary change, or to find a common approach to a single crisis. They are not a substitute for leadership.

Various Franco-German talks have highlighted the issue. There is no longer a consensus between the two countries about the final destination of European integration. It is often said that the German Chancellor wants European integration to be his last historical achievement. He has retreated step by step from this ambition because without closer definition it has become meaningless. This is a failure of

leadership. Summits, bilateral and multilateral, are starting to underline this failure, to provoke rather than solve crises.

The question of leadership and of authority has become important because the era of "ins" and "outs" has begun. The first also-rans — Romania and Slovenia — have just been announced. Soon the "outs" of the economic and monetary union will have to be selected. The continent is about to be divided into different leagues. To do so, to make the division convincing and acceptable, requires persuasive leadership. Where is it?

## Serbs salute war crimes suspect at state funeral

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

THE Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect killed by the SAS was given a state funeral yesterday, a newfound martyr whose violent end at the hand of "international occupiers" has given a timely boost to the hardliners rallying behind The Hague's most wanted suspect, Radovan Karadzic.

A crowd of about 3,000, half of them policemen like Sino Drljaca, packed into the cemetery of St Pantelija here to pay their respects to the man whose alleged involvement in the death of up to 5,000 Muslims in the Bosnian war's most notorious concentration camp has been brushed aside by virulent state propaganda.

A three-gun salute was fired by police in riot gear. Mourners carried placards of Dr Karadzic and slogans such as "fighting against foreigners is our holy human duty". The ceremony was covered live on state television and the church establishment turned out in all its finery.

A story depicted in the international press as the kill-

ing of an alleged monster has been turned on its head, uniting the Bosnian Serb extremists just as the moderate voice of Biljana Plavsic, the president of Republika Srpska, was beginning to gain some ground. Mrs Plavsic has had to backtrack in her fight against the corruption of the Karadzic clique, denouncing the SAS snatch operation in a weekend press release.

Amid this communal anger at Nato and the West, Stabilisation Force helicopters kept a discreet distance from the cemetery and British troops stayed off the city's streets. Some senior officers at the nearby Mirkovic Grad base of the Royal Hussars have complained they were given no warning of the SAS mission, and have admitted it was badly timed.

Drljaca's weeping widow was supported by his 17-year-old son, Sinisa, who gave state radio an account of his own arrest by the SAS, fuelling the fires of Serb resentment. Sinisa described how he and

his uncle were pinned to the ground by their lakeside home while his father struggled with other SAS commandos who had sprung from bushes. "They were swearing at me, calling me a monkey and an idiot," he said. "A black guy pushed my face into the ground. I heard the screams of my father and two shots... they took him by the legs and arms and threw him in one of the helicopters. My hands were bound so tightly I lost all feeling in them."

Sinisa Drljaca said the helicopters landed them on a mountain where the SAS commander congratulated his troops. He and his uncle were shown papers accusing them of being war criminals, and said guns had been pressed to his head.

□ Washington: President Clinton, in his most direct remarks about future involvement in Bosnia, has kept open the possibility that American troops could stay on after their Nato peacekeeping mission expires next June.



A policeman rescues a six-month-old baby in the worst-affected part of Wroclaw



Traugutta Street in Wroclaw after torrential rains

## Flooded Polish city fights to save church

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WROCLAW

VOLUNTEERS and soldiers battled yesterday to protect cultural treasures in this historic city from the worst floods in decades, which have killed at least 56 people in Poland and the neighbouring Czech Republic.

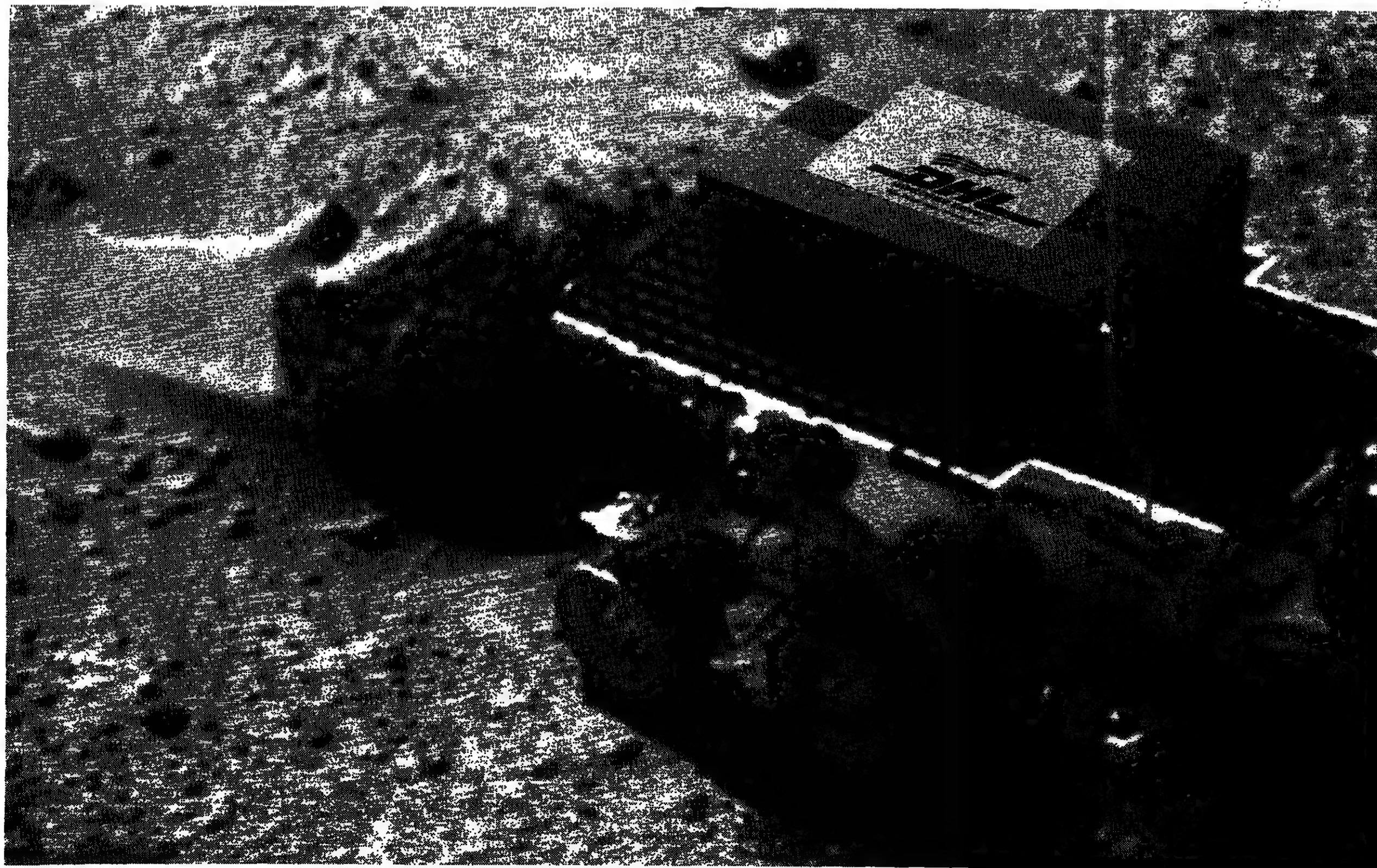
Thousands of people laid sandbags at the Oder River banks to stop leaks in provisional dykes protecting the Gothic church and the university library located 100ft away from rising waters.

The most dramatic struggle with rising waters took place in Ostrow Tumski, an isle in the heart of the city where buildings dating back to the

13th century are located. The rescue action had to be interrupted several times because of shortages of sand.

Volunteers, many of whom worked the second day in a row without sleep, complained also of inadequate water and food supplies.

The floodwaters rose to first-floor levels in the medieval city of 700,000 people, and residents used motor boats to bring themselves and their belongings to the safety of hilly areas. More than 30 helicopters supplied water, food and medicine to city residents. Electricity had been cut off since Saturday.



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## SUMMER CE SPOR

## RAISING A TIGER

**Johanna  
Hopkins**  
talks to the  
father of a  
phenomenon  
**PAGE 29**

MONDAY JULY 14 1997

# Hill takes point as Villeneuve takes flag

BY MICHAEL CALVIN

A GLOVED fist emerged from the cockpit and Damon Hill began to punch the air. He was conducting a chorus of 110,000 voices, saluting a capacity Silverstone crowd who shared his surprise and sudden elation. Never had sixth place in a British Grand Prix meant so much to so many.

A fortunate victory, rich in potential significance for Jacques Villeneuve, reduced Michael Schumacher's world championship lead to four points yesterday, yet it was almost an afterthought on an afternoon of conflicting emotions that could have been scripted as a sporting fable.

Hill played a passive role throughout the 60-lap race, having little option but to be the tortoise to the hares further up the grid, whose speed masked unreliability. Heinz Harald Frentzen failed to survive a lap, Schumacher's wheel-bearing broke when victory seemed certain and Mika Hakkinen was denied his first grand prix win when his Mercedes engine expired.

child from a sheet of cardboard, leant at a crazy angle across the window of his motorhome.

"I feel like I have won something," he said. "One point to me is just as good as a victory. It was all we could hope for. I didn't think we were going to get it until Nakano blew up, but then I started getting all excited. It's a different feeling to winning, but in a way it's the same. A lot of people were here to see me as world champion and I wanted to do something special to thank them. In all honesty, I needed a bit of luck, but we have achieved what we wanted."

It is unlikely to be a sufficiently powerful balm to ease all the wounds of recent days, but Hill has at least answered the slurs about his application to what has often looked a lost cause. Sensitive to the prevailing mood, of joy tinged with relief, he refrained from reinstating his virtues.

"I was just out there, trying to do my best," he said. "I don't

|                            |    |
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think the criticism helped too much, but that's Formula One and I can take it. This is great for the team. Everyone has been under a lot of pressure, so it is only right that we should go away and celebrate. It's not the right time to consider the future."

Undoubtedly, others will be undeterred. Michael Breen, the London lawyer who acts as Hill's manager, laughed off suggestions that he is looking for £10 million for his man next season. Hill's stock will continue to rise and fall with potential suitors, who range from Sauber to Prost and McLaren, depending on which rumour one believes.

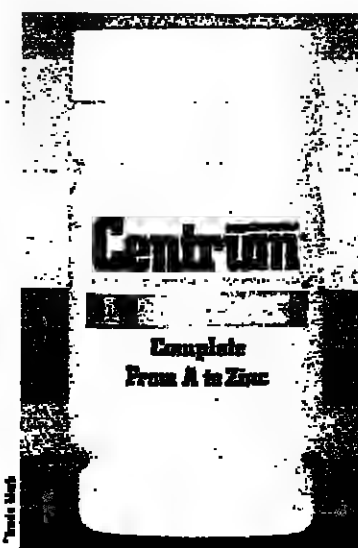
Walkinshaw, at least, had reason to be satisfied with his man-management strategy. "Damon did a super job, but at one point I thought he was going to fall out of the car, he was waving so much," he said. "Sometimes, as a manager, you have to do hard things, to get the best of the people around you." Hill was so happy, he might even have agreed.

Hill raises his arms in triumph after finishing in the points — just — for the first time this season in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone yesterday. Photograph: Russell Boyce



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TENNIS: DAVIS CUP VICTORY OVER UKRAINE EASES RELEGATION FEARS DESPITE MEDVEDEV'S BEST EFFORTS

# Rusedski prevails to steer Britain away from danger

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KIEV

GREG RUSEDSKI, inspired by his grasp of the local language, anchored Great Britain to victory against Ukraine in the deciding Davis Cup match here yesterday. His victory over Andrei Rybalko clinched the tie 3-2 to banish the spectre of a relegation playoff from the Euro-African zone.

A majestic performance over three days from Andrei Medvedev — who had beaten Tim Henman in four sets earlier in the afternoon — counted for nothing when Rusedski overpowered an opponent full of pluck. Rybalko tugged at his coat-tails until, increasing in stature through the match, the Briton finally shook off his opponent with the strength of his grasp.

Rusedski's grandfather, Bill, hailed from southern Ukraine before he emigrated to Canada. In his youth, Rusedski learnt a little of the local tongue and he understood perfectly officials who had taken umbrage at the British team's reluctance to finish their food — despite a translator's efforts to dilute the vitriol.

He had all the incentive he needed in advance of a difficult encounter and a partisan audience, which goaded him to lose in the name of his grandfather. "That dinner got me up for it more than the crowd," he said afterwards. "I thought they [the officials] were a bit out of order. Maybe one or two of them had had too much to drink."

Indeed, it was hard to fathom the Ukraine tennis federation's approach to this tie. Tickets for the three-day tie cost \$25 (£16.50), which equates to a month's salary for the majority of the population. This ensured that the 3,000-seat stadium was half-empty. Those who attended certainly made themselves heard: a full house might just have swung the tie in their favour.

Ever since he arrived here on Wednesday, Rusedski had sensed that his match with Rybalko would settle the outcome of the tie. The pressure mounted accordingly as preceding rubbers went with the form-book.

After a demoralising defeat by Medvedev on Friday, it was as well for Rusedski that he partnered Henman, in place of Neil Broad, in the doubles match on Saturday. The combination was never troubled, beating Medvedev and Dimitri Poljakov 6-1, 6-4, 7-6. Henman playing with particu-

## DETAILS

Ukraine 2 Great Britain 3

Learner returns here

SATURDAY: A Medvedev and D Pristov lost to T Henman and G Rusedski 1-6, 4-6, 6-7.

YESTERDAY: Medvedev vs Henman 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. A Rybalko lost to Rusedski 6-7, 3-6, 3-6.

Rusedski's grandfather, Bill, hailed from southern Ukraine before he emigrated to Canada. In his youth, Rusedski learnt a little of the local tongue and he understood perfectly officials who had taken umbrage at the British team's reluctance to finish their food — despite a translator's efforts to dilute the vitriol.

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lar panache in the first two sets. Nevertheless, Rusedski did start anxiously against Rybalko. "Greg was very nervous before the match," David Lloyd, the Britain team captain, said yesterday. "This was a very tough tie, especially when we felt Medvedev would win his two singles matches."

"It meant we had to win the other three and I thought Greg played exceptionally well. If we lost the match, he could have been blamed for the whole thing."



Henman: fiery display

That never looked likely once Rusedski soothed his nerves. He took a tense first set by breaking Rybalko in the twelfth game, after which some routine serve-and-volleying carried him further and further into the distance. He prevailed 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 in the 48min to register what Lloyd described as a victory every bit as impressive as that posted on Spanish clay 15 years ago.

Henman had earlier produced some stirring clay-court tennis against Medvedev, a true master of the surface. In a match of considerable intensity and after matching Medvedev stroke for stroke, Henman collared the first set on a tie break. Although his opponent rallied in the second set, Henman looked anything but a forlorn hope when he advanced to 4-2 in the third after an hour's rain interlude.

However, Henman was to lose the next four games, two on his own service, both with drop shots that went astray. Medvedev, who could never afford to slacken, paid hand-tribute to Henman after completing a 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory in their first-ever encounter.

"He has many strengths and no weaknesses that I could find," the world No 17 said. "Not only does he play like a top-ten player, he has the capability to go all the way. His ability to play retrieving shots is amazing."

Henman's on-court character is also evolving rapidly. Although angered by a series of dubious let-calls, he harnessed his energies, summoning some of his best play for when close to boiling point.

His fiery performance in the doubles on Saturday, itself in marked contrast to his disciplined effort of the previous day, carried over to this match. Once again, he was officially rebuked — this time for audible obscenities — in a display that firmly reflected his competitive instinct. On this evidence, he looks ready to advance his world ranking beyond No 20.



Rusedski plays a backhand return on his way to victory over Rybalko yesterday

## Football school gives way to leading clubs

HOWARD WILKINSON, the technical director of the Football Association, said yesterday that the FA National School of Excellence at Lillleshall will be closed within two years. Wilkinson wants the centre to be replaced with academies at leading clubs.

"It is because the school has been such a great success that we have decided the time is right to change the system," he said. "The new proposals will reach and benefit more youngsters. Lillleshall has taught us a lot. We could not have initiated the academy schemes without it acting as the pilot. The National School has done a great job, but its sample of boys is too small." Although the proposals need to be ratified by the FA, school officials have already accepted it will be closed in 1999.

## Tour ends in defeat

RUGBY UNION: England Under-21 ended their five-match tour to Australia on a disappointing note when they were beaten 27-7 by their Australian counterparts in the curtain-raiser to the senior international at the Sydney Football Stadium on Saturday. England's only try came when Matthew Perry and Fraser Waters found space and sent Paul Sampson through. Josh Lewsey collected a loose ball without breaking stride and Tom Beir, who had a difficult afternoon in defence, sprinted to the posts.

South Africa Under-21 defeated a Western Australia senior team 44-18 at Perry Lakes Park, Perth yesterday.

## Quirot passes Holmes

ATHLETICS: Anna Quirot, of Cuba, right, ran the fastest 800 metres in the world this year, 1min 55.78sec, at a meeting in Stuttgart yesterday. The 34-year-old world champion beat the previous best time of 1min 57.14sec set by Kelly Holmes, of Britain. Another best of the year mark was set by Ato Boldon, of Trinidad, who won the 200 metres in 19.77sec.



## Simpson on a spree

HOCKEY: Rhona Simpson, the Edinburgh Ladies striker, scored her second hat-trick in seven days as Scotland held England to a 3-3 draw in the three nations' tournament at Bisham Abbey, Scotland, who were in control for most of the game. led 3-1 after 37 minutes, but England staged a late rally and salvaged a draw with goals by Tina Cullen and Jane Smith. Cath James scored the first England goal.

## Scotland fall at the last

GOLF: Scotland suffered a desperate collapse in the afternoon singles in Finland yesterday to fall at the last hurdle in the European women's team championship. Having won both foursomes against Sweden, they required two points from the five matches later to secure their first title, but they failed and, as in Milan two years ago, had to settle for second. Wales were fourth and England seventh.

## Manning suffers

CYCLING: Paul Manning, the British under-23 road racing champion, saw his hopes in the national 100-kilometre team-trial championship disappear yesterday when he suffered a puncture after eight kilometres. His Adidas team colleagues were delayed by nearly three minutes as a result. The North Wirral quartet of Matthew Bottrill, Brett Harwood, Julian Ramsbottom and Chris Newton won in 2hr 11min 55sec.

## Mantilla makes amends

TENNIS: Felix Mantilla, of Spain, right, won the Swiss Open in Gstaad yesterday, beating Juan Viloca, his compatriot, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 to claim his second tournament success of the year. Mantilla lost in the final of the event in 1996. Magnus Norman, of Sweden, won his first ATP tournament, defeating Juan Antonio Marin, of Spain, 7-6, 6-2 in the final of the Swedish Open in Bastad.



## Ironman record goes

TRIATHLON: Luc van Lierde, of Belgium, broke the world record for the Ironman distance at Ironman Europe in Roth, Germany, with a time of 7hr 50min 27sec, after racing in perfect conditions — warm, dry and with little wind. Sue Lashaw, of the United States, joined an exclusive group of four other women when she broke the nine-hour barrier for the course to win in 8hr 59min 30sec.

## Petchey fails final test

TENNIS: Mark Petchey, of Great Britain, the No 1 seed, failed in his attempt to win the Bristol Challenger tournament at Redland Green yesterday. He was beaten 7-6, 7-6 by Stefano Pescosolido, 26, of Italy, in a rain-interrupted final. Pescosolido said: "This was a big tournament for me. I came looking to win a couple of matches and boost my confidence. To win it was a real surprise."

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## Laird lord it over Rio Pardo

LAIRD, the newly-organised Beaufort Club team, earned their place in Thursday's semi-finals of the British Open by beating Rio Pardo, who are put together by the Brazilian player, Ricardo Mansur, by the convincing margin of 10-4 at Cowdrey Park yesterday (John Watson writes).

After some very fast play during the first three chukkas, the teams were level at 4-4 at trading-in time. After that, Laird's superior team tactics, coupled with what appeared to be a slight edge in pony power, carried the afternoon. Rio Pardo were denied any further goals as Laird swept to victory.

The Laird players pivoted on Will Lucas, who looks a fraction under-handicapped, backed up another up, passed accurately and marked their opposite numbers in classic style, whereas Rio Pardo were, by comparison, too individualistic.

LAIRD: 1, L. Tordenson (2); 2, P. Angus (7); 3, W. Lucas (6); back, A. Hine (8). RIO PARDO: 1, Laird C. Sheehy (6); 2, M. Vison (7); 3, R. Mansur Jr (8); back, R. Mansur (9).

FENCING

## Chance for Cadman to make mark

QUENTIN BERRIMAN'S unexplained last-minute decision to withdraw from the world championships in Cape Town this week will damage Great Britain's chances of respectable results (Graham Morrison writes). Berriman's skill, experience and standing would have played an important role, whether or not he was personally successful.

The men's épée preliminaries start today, so a change of heart since Wednesday, when his decision came to light, would seem of little value against the backdrop of chaotic international airline schedules. Of the other men épéeists, Anton Pollard could reach the middle orders, while Greg Allen is capable of a reasonable performance.

The British federation, though, will examine closely Tom Cadman's performance. Cadman, 18, from Wimbledon, still has two years left as a junior, but, by forcing his way into the senior squad, he has shown the potential for development over the next three years.

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# Canadian takes maximum advantage after Schumacher's luck runs out in British Grand Prix

## Villeneuve closes gap as Williams celebrate century

By MICHAEL CALVIN

JACQUES VILLENEUVE, winner of a British Grand Prix that contained more hard-luck stories than a convention of undischarged bankrupts, auditioned successfully for the role of rebel with a cause yesterday. His second suspended ban of the year, imposed by the Silverstone stewards for driving too close to the safety car, was a minor irritation.

The historical symmetry of his victory, the hundredth by the Williams team, was far outweighed by its immediate impact on the world championship. Crucially, in an age of professional races that are decided by misfortune or malfunction, he took full advantage of Ferrari's fallibility.

Michael Schumacher built a 29sec lead over the Canadian, who drove for ten laps with a loose front wheel and dropped back as far as seventh place before his left rear wheel bearing buckled under the strain on lap 38. When further mechanical problems cost Eddie Irvine second position, the momentum of the season changed in an instant.

Ferrari are now only three points ahead of Williams in the constructors' championship, one fewer than Schumacher's advantage in the duel for the drivers' title. Had Villeneuve secured the self-inflicted problems of his team-mate, Heinz Hardesty, the consequences would have been far reaching.

"It was a very important race for us," Villeneuve said. "I have to admit that, at one point, I thought the chance of victory had gone. We needed this win. What goes around comes around and Michael's

retirement balances out the championship."

The race began bizarrely when Ukko Katajama crashed his Minardi into the wall before he had even crossed the start line. His explanation — "I don't know what happened" — lacked in technical precision what it had in brevity.

The inquest into Frenzen's failure to last the opening lap, due to a glancing blow from the Tyrrell driven by Jos Verstappen, had an inevitably sharper edge. His initial crime, the root of his subsequent difficulties, was to waste the advantage of qualifying on the front row by stalling after the parade lap.

It was an elementary error that any driving instructor can relate to — he was in first gear when he let out the clutch in the mistaken belief he was in neutral — and it did absolutely nothing to ease the unflattering comparisons with Hill, the driver he controversially replaced at the end of last season.

This season will revolve

around the two men who gave every indication of disappearing into the distance as the race assumed a predictable pattern. Villeneuve was quickest away from the start, but Schumacher made the most of the empty track that beckoned because Frenzen was now forced to start from the back of the grid.

David Coulthard's typically audacious attempt to squeeze down the inside was foiled by the German, but he still forced his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, to give way. The McLaren, handicapped by heavy fuel loads designed to facilitate a one-stop strategy, then formed a mobile chicane, which compressed the chasing pack.

Brake problems, manifested by smoking tyres, cost Coulthard a comfortable third place halfway through the race and condemned him to an ultimately frustrating climb from tenth to fourth. Hakkinen, however, had an infinitely crueler fate.

He has laboured under the increasingly confident assumption that he, and not Coulthard, will be released at the end of the season, to help McLaren's reconstruction plans. His first win, in his 88th grand prix, would have been a boon to his manager, Keke Rosberg, who, somewhat optimistically, is trying to sell him to Ferrari as a potential replacement for Irvine.

Only seven laps remained when Hakkinen's attempt to protest a narrow loss over Villeneuve was undermined by a tail-tail plume of blue smoke from his Mercedes engine. The Finn coasted to a halt at Abbey Curve and sat motionless in the cockpit, as he was consumed by the magnitude of his disappointment.

When he eventually hauled himself out, he was touched by the sympathy of the crowd. He threw his gloves into the stands and, rather indecisively, blew his nose on his facemask before holding both arms high in mock triumph.

"When I sat in the car, all I could think about was how close I had come," he said. "I have been trying for a win for so many years. I felt sad, of course, but when I saw the people waving and shouting at me, I had to be positive. This is the best indication of what we can do."

Villeneuve, with a comforting 10sec margin over the chasing Benetton pair of Jean Alesi and Alexander Wurz, made the most of an uneventful run to the chequered flag. Williams, whose first win was by Clay Regazzoni at Silverstone in 1979, had reached their landmark.

Yet Patrick Head, their technical director, was unafraid to confront the reality of Schumacher's superiority. "We were lucky, very lucky," he acknowledged. "Michael is very strong, immensely fast. This is going to be a long, hard struggle."



Villeneuve celebrates in time-honoured fashion after claiming his fourth grand prix triumph of the season at Silverstone yesterday

## Short-circuited by testosterone overload

Around 11.15 yesterday morning, the drivers in the British Grand Prix did a lap of honour in an open truck. Spectators applauded and waved flags, as well they might. Because for once, you see, if they asked each other: "Who was that, then?" they actually had an opportunity for a second glance.

This procession was nice for lots of reasons — it was quiet, dignified, and staged for the benefit of the spectators. Best of all, though, it was a reminder of the comfortably human dimensions of drivers without their cars, helmets and mile-high endorsements. The thing was packed, like so many Play People in a Tonka toy; they looked just tiny out there.

Even after a pretty exciting grand prix — with nail-biting pit-stops and upset leaders retiring with blue smoke pluming from their burns — the attraction of this bizarre sport still eludes me, and I can only check my testosterone level (low) and sigh my regret. I enjoyed the Red Arrows. I gaped when Villeneuve's pit-stop looked like taking about 20 minutes. I laughed and clapped when Schumacher's big end went. But by then I was watching it on television, which is the only sensible thing. I have no idea why people would come here in their tens of thousands and stand in a crowd for 75 quid a throw.

Wuppa-wuppa went the helicopters all day, so that the

whole event resembled the fall of Saigon. Radio Silverstone announced that on the day of the grand prix, Silverstone has taken off and landings every nine seconds, making it the busiest airfield in the world (or was it the Home Counties?). All this adds to the air of self-importance, though, which is the main thing Formula One is about.

What a bogus sport. Dress up a car race with big money, and it's still a car race. No one has yet told me a single thing about a racing driver that makes me want to support him, let alone admire him, or make him worth £10 million of anybody's money. Sponsorship paraphernalia has reached idiotic proportions. Bump into a racing driver in the paddock and you're so busy reading the assorted logos on his outfit that you miss getting a gander at his face.

Meanwhile, as for the hard-wearing and conspicuous wealth, well it's just boy's stuff. "Wow, big tyres," I say without enthusiasm, passing great stacks of them in the paddock. "Wow, rich Germans in sunglasses acting like they own the place, wow, an enormous sparkly-chrome motorhome, with the words 'Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro Asprey Shell Goodyear Pioneer Telecomitalia NGK arexons SKF USAG Brembo TRW sabelt BBS' written neatly on the side. Wow, let me outta here."

But if it's hard to warm to the spurious glamour of this roadshow, it's even harder to

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking & Screaming

warm to the real meat of motor racing PR — the unedifying, hugely inflated small-pond deals and tussles between drivers and team managers. The way I see it, if Damon Hill is disenchanted with his lower-performance Arrows car, that's just tough. He took the big cheque. Yet I get the impression he actually expects people to feel sorry for him.

No, Formula One is too odd, too masculine, and too high and mighty. Dare one blame the cheerless German influence for its haughty demeanour? Well, probably one dares not. But there was a tricky moment yesterday when Hill punched the air as he finished sixth, raising a big laugh in the press room. Here was a man with a sense of irony, wasn't it? He was saying: "Hey, stuf, wasn't

he? But afterwards, I wasn't so sure.

I suppose I just don't enjoy a sport where the participants are invisible; where you can't even see their haircuts, let alone their knees or the whites of their eyes. All you can see is their bank statements writ large. "A great day out, this," a mild South African said to me in a sandwich queue before the race. Looking back, I suspect this was just an inoffensive chat-up line, but alas for that mild man, he had chosen the wrong woman to use it on. "Is it?" I demanded. "Is it a great day out?" He shrugged, and backed off uncertainly, shielding his torso with a tray. "In what way is it a great day out?" I continued, somewhat hysterically. "I ask only for information!"

Browsing the local papers, I discovered that at nearby Stowe yesterday I might have visited a model yacht regatta for £1, which would have counted as at least as good a day out in my opinion. The leading yacht could have been

delayed by a bit of essential rigging-work ("This knot won't untie! We're losing precious seconds!"), then overtaken by another yacht that later sank, to the pleasant sound of a gurgling German national anthem. Meanwhile a Scottish yacht could have come through in sixth place, having steered a sensible, cautious race to defy its critics.

But I dared not visit the model yachts, just in case the dread hand of Big Bucks had infiltrated even there and ruined it. The hopeful smile would freeze on one's face to discover loads of super-huge hospitality vans surrounding each teeny boat, and sponsors fighting over the colour of the waders to be worn. It could happen in model yachts: the point is it could happen anywhere. Poor little boats sinking under the weight of "Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro Asprey Shell Goodyear Pioneer Telecomitalia NGK arexons SKF USAG Brembo TRW sabelt BBS". What a world.

## fall at the last

Michael Schumacher's victory in the British Grand Prix was a triumph for Williams, but it was also a defeat for Ferrari. The team's hopes of a dominant season have been dashed, and the team's reputation for reliability has been questioned. The race was a turning point in the season, and it was a disappointment for Ferrari fans.

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The race was a disappointment for Ferrari fans, but it was a triumph for Williams. The team's hopes of a dominant season have been dashed, and the team's reputation for reliability has been questioned. The race was a turning point in the season, and it was a disappointment for Ferrari fans.

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## Hill's point makes ITV happy

EVEN by his own remarkable standards, it was a vintage Murray Walker moment. "And out goes the Prost of Nakano," he observed in the special, dull monotone he reserves for the retirements of gallant also-runs. Clunk, whirr, bang went the Walker brain. Bingo. "Which means that Damon Hill is in the points." Oh the excitement.

Keith Mackenzie, however, is not a man to get carried away. Having produced 11 British Grands Prix for the BBC he was not going to let sentiment spoil his first for ITV. Anyway, he had already given the reigning world championship two 30-second bursts of television glory, and that had been when Hill was running twelfth. So while a small proportion of the nation held its breath, Mackenzie kept his cameras focused on Villeneuve.

Only when Ralf Schumacher had crossed the line to take fifth did Mackenzie switch to the on-board camera in Hill's Arrows. He may have had half a lap to go, but Hill was already waving to the crowds providing TTV, at last, with the sort of emotional pictures it needs if it is to prevent Formula One from once again slipping back to being a sport only watched by a specialist audience.

If the race itself was determined by technical failure, the same could not be said of ITV's coverage. This was the only race of the season where the new holder of the Formula One rights in Britain gets to act as host broadcaster and provide the pictures for the rest of the world.

To help it do so, it subcontracted the technical side of things to the people who have been doing it for years, BBC Resources, but then added a few bangs and whistles of its own.

Some of the extra camera positions worked, some — such as the kerb cameras designed to give an impression of speed — turned out to be little more than an expensive novelty. In all some 50 cameras were involved, making it probably the biggest sports broadcast of the year.

What they were all doing during the early part of Saturday's qualifying session, I do not know. But I do know that a mystifying preoccupation with cars either on their in-lap or out-lap meant that lap after



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

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qualifying lap passed by unseen by those of us at home. By the race itself, however, there was no such problems, with Mackenzie having the nous to turn the confusion at the start to his advantage, first using the faulty start as an opportunity for a lucrative commercial break and then using the safety car laps to catch up with the subsequent departures of Katajama and Frenzen.

The choice of replays was particularly impressive. That set the standard for the afternoon, with a mixture of luck and judgment ensuring that the only notable event missed live was Hakkinen's retirement and possibly (it was a close thing) the first sign that something was amiss with Schumacher's car. The fact that both cars were leading at the time means they were bad misses, but the damage was quickly limited by swiftly retrieved replays and by Martin Brundle's instant explanations.

Brundle remains one of ITV's biggest assets and not

just for his expertise. It is his natural ability as a broadcaster that impresses.

Yesterday, he probably made more mistakes than Walker did: was lamentably slow to spot the number of cars running on a one-stop strategy and breached the spirit, if not the letter, of the rules governing tobacco sponsorship on television. But until he was defeated by technology, his live amble down the Silverstone starting-grid just before the race was as good a bit of sports broadcasting as you could hope to see. That's not what ITV bought him for but they clearly know talent when they see it.

But we end as we began, with another vintage Walker moment, although I admit I'm guessing that he was responsible for this one. Villeneuve was languishing in the pits. As the Williams team wrestled with a front wheel nut and the seconds ticked by, James Allen (someone else who could have some explaining to do vis-à-vis tobacco brands) banged on and on and on.

Eventually Walker (or someone sounding very like him) could stand it no longer. Clearly audible came a strangled cry of "Oh, shut up." It was Allen's cue for the quick-est "Back to you, Murray" in broadcasting history.

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Joel is 11

GOLF

# Nicholas sizes up chance for growth

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PORTLAND, OREGON

THIS only time that Alison Nicholas found her size a drawback was when she played tennis — "It's tough when you can't see your opponent on the other side of the net," she says — but lack of inches has not impeded her growing stature as a golfer.

Here at Pumpkin Ridge yesterday, the 5ft Englishwoman was in a position to win the 52nd US Women's Open championship, leading the veteran Nancy Lopez by three shots, with a total of 203, ten under par, going into the final round.

Lisette Neumann, the champion in 1988, slipped out of contention by dropping six shots in the first six holes on Saturday and was on 213, level

after ten holes and Mardyn Hall, her fiancé and coach, who had been up at 4.30am to do the ironing, was ageing prematurely. Hackney, a low-key soul, did not panic, working her way to five under par after 54 holes.

Nicholas had five birdies and only one bogey, at the hazardous 6th, in her 67 on Saturday. She struck the ball superbly and putted with a consummate touch on greens that were becoming slicker as the sun shone. Her concentration was total, despite the legion of noisy and devoted Lopez fans following their heroine in the group ahead.

Nicholas did not expect to find them a problem yesterday either. She accepted that Lopez, whose first victory in Portland was the US girls' junior championship in 1974, was the sentimental favourite. Now 40, the first lady of golf was the Tiger Woods of her day, without the rough edges. She has won 48 tournaments, including three majors, but never the US Open.

"I don't think I've got too much to lose," Nicholas said. "Nancy's a very classy lady, we respect one another and we'll go out and play and see what happens."

It was a conversation with Lopez at the first Solheim Cup, in 1990, that persuaded Nicholas that she had the game to do well in the United States after an unhappy first attempt. Nicholas and Davies caused a big upset when they defeated Lopez and Pat Bradley, another icon, in the opening foursome of that Solheim, but Lopez beat Nicholas in the singles 6 and 4.

This is a different Nicholas, however. She is playing well — beaten in a play-off in the Evian Masters and third in the Guardian Irish Open last month — and has her swing and her body in shape, thanks to a lot of hard work with Lawrence Farmer, her coach, and Paul Darby, her fitness trainer, who has travelled out to Oregon.

A Christian, she also seemed to have her mind, the crucial component, under control. "My friends prayed for me to be calm on Saturday," she said. "I was nervous, but I felt a calm and a peace." A similar state of grace was what was required yesterday.

Nicholas in control

par. She was one of eight Europeans in the top 20. Laura Davies missed the cut, as did Annika Sorenstam, the defending champion, who was aiming for an unprecedented hat-trick. Davies, who started it all by winning this title in 1987, had a double bogey at the 18th but still spent the weekend cheering on her compatriots.

Hackney, 30, is top of the rookie-of-the-year standings in the United States this season, but she has been a professional since 1991 and has grown in confidence since making a successful Solheim Cup debut at St Pierre last year.

She is playing in her second US Open — she missed the cut at Oakland in 1992 — and was first out on Thursday morning. She was three over par

## John Hopkins talks to Earl Woods, the father of a phenomenon

### Turning Tiger cub into golf's young Master

If there is no more important task for a parent than overseeing and directing the upbringing of their offspring, then Earl Woods can sit back now and pat himself on the back for a job well done.

Tiger Woods, the only child of his second marriage, is acclaimed as a golfing prodigy who, at the age of 21, is the Masters champion, has won seven tournaments in his first 11 months as a professional and has sent ripples through sport in the way that only the likes of Pelé and Cassius Clay have done in the past.

Tiger has been the subject of a carefully thought-out strategy by his parents from long before he was born. Earl and Tida Woods decided that Tiger would come first in their relationship from the moment he was born and, since then, the planning and carrying out of predetermined ideas has never stopped.

Earl Woods, for example, loves jazz. "It is so creative, so melodic," he said last week from the offices of the Tiger Woods Foundation in California. "I wanted Tiger to hear it at the earliest possible moment and so I made sure that music from the local jazz station was playing on the radio when Tiger was brought home from the hospital. I wanted him to hear it straight away."

In his book, *Training a Tiger*, Earl Woods recounts how, when Tiger was asleep in his cot, he would stand over him and talk gently to him, while stroking Tiger's cheek with his left finger.

"The bond between us is very powerful now," Earl Woods repeated last week. "For example, Tiger was in Chicago two weeks ago. I was in the same hotel as he was, but I did not go to his room and he did not come to mine. We met only once, and briefly at that. That was sufficient. Tiger wanted me there. It made him feel comfortable."

"Same at Troon. Unfortunately, I shall be there — unfortunately, because I have a foot-high pile of administration to do here, but if Tiger wants me to be there because he says it makes him feel comfortable, then I shall be there."

Woods is open to accusations of attempting genetic engineering instead of allowing his offspring to develop naturally. "There was no grand plan that he would be a golfer," Woods said. "He could be a fireman for all I care, so long as he was the best fireman it was possible to be. It was simply to make sure he was a good person."

Then why was such an elaborate plan thought up with Tiger and not with the



Woods embraces his father after winning the Masters at Augusta in April with a record-breaking score

children of his first marriage? "With Tiger I had time," Woods said. "I was around Tiger from the time he was born. With the other children, I was away. I was in Vietnam, Thailand. There were gaps in their development."

The moment that Earl Woods realised Tiger was exceptional came early in their son's life. Before Tiger could walk properly, he would sit in a chair in the garage and watch his father swing a golf club. Then he

would try to copy what he had seen. Because he was facing his father, he swung in a mirror image, swinging left-handed in other words. "One day, he stopped in mid-swing and changed from swinging left-handed to right-handed," his father recalled. "At the same time, he changed his grip to that of a right-hander. He did that when he was ten months old. That was when I knew I had a special son. I never had to punish him. I never restricted him. I never

put a hand on him. I never had to admonish him. He always did his homework. He was a self-starter. He drove me, not me him. He was an almost perfect child. An almost ungodly perfection exists in this child. "I taught him to analyse so that he could control things. I said to him: 'Whose responsibility is it when you bang your club on the ground in temper? Is it that crowd in the big tree over there? Is it his responsibility? Or is it the

sound of the wind whistling through those trees over there? Whose responsibility was it?' I asked. He would say: 'Mine.' I always tried to tie the lessons of golf into lessons of life."

"The first time he wanted to stay out, we had to establish a curfew. I did not tell him what I had in mind. I said to him: 'What do you think? Talk to your friends. Let me know.' He came up with a time that was an hour earlier than the time I had in mind."

Yet even Tiger, this paragon, was not spared the traditional rebellion of adolescence. It came about over a girl. "It was his first relationship and he fell head over heels with a girl," Earl said. "He was about 15 at the time and it lasted for 3½ years."

"He would not listen to anyone. He was Mr Know-it-All. I told him he was too young to be in with one person 100 per cent. It took him a long time to realise, but, when he did, he severed the relationship. It was time to move on, he said."

There is an air of certainty about Earl Woods and the way he talks that is as striking as some of the achievements of his son. Surely, he and Tida must have had some doubts as to the regime they imposed on their son? "I never had any self-doubts, or reservations," Woods replied. "I had raised three children before who had become adults. I had experience in parenting."

As important as bringing children up is allowing them to leave home, both literally and metaphorically. Woods knew about that, too. "I said

'He could be a fireman, so long as he was the best fireman it was possible to be'

to my wife that, when Tiger walks out of that door to go to college, he ceases to live here. She said: 'But he's only 18.' Woods replied: "That's it, he's gone. He only comes home for laundry and to see his friends."

And so it is now. Tiger, beset by his popularity, lives in a guarded estate in Florida, as far from his parents as it is possible to go and remain in the United States — but the bonding has been done. He will always be Tida and Earl's son.

"I have let him go," Earl Woods said. "You know all these public relations faux pas he has made and the trouble he has been in with the press? I could have prevented all that, but I wanted him to fumble and bumble his own way so he would learn, grow and mature. And it has worked."

"Two weeks ago, he called me and said he had been doing some soul-searching. He thanked me for allowing him to make the mistakes that had made him grow. He was truly grateful."

*Training a Tiger* by Earl Woods (Hodder & Stoughton £14.99)

## Triumphant Lehman putts to perfection

By John Hopkins  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a road sign almost outside an entrance to the Loch Lomond golf club that reads: "Argyll and Bute welcomes careful drivers." Underneath are the words: "And good putters, too." In winning the Gulfstream World Invitational at Loch Lomond, Tom Lehman played like the Open champion he is. He was not only a good putter, but good in all departments of the sometimes infuriating game of golf.

Just how good can be judged from the fact that Lehman had only two bogeys in 72 holes, a level of consistency he said he had never achieved before. The rain-dampened beautiful course was less of a test because there was no wind and, in the main, the flags were placed in generous positions, but to be 19 under par after rounds of 65, 66, 67 and 67 is memorable golf and allowed Lehman to put the finishing touches to his de-

fence of the Open Championship that he won last year at Lytham, knowing that his swing is on plane, his striking accurate and his putting good.

Putting is generally the key to Lehman's game. Jim Flick, the eminent teacher, has said: "I think that Tom is a wonderful lag putter and a wonderful short putter, but, by Tour standards, he is not a wonderful putter of putts of ten to 20 feet."

Lehman calls himself a streaky putter, much as if he is a piece of bacon. What he means is that he has spells when his putting is good, when he often wins convincingly.

"My victories come when I putt well," he said. "I won by five in Memorial (in 1994) and by five here. I was six ahead at Lytham [after 54 holes of the Open last year] and won the Tour Championship [last October] by six strokes, having led by nine after 54 holes. When I putt well, I can do a lot."

The only moment of concern for Lehman was on the 3rd, when he took his second bogey of the tournament and fell back to 14 under par at the same time as Pierre Fulke birdied the same hole to move to the same figure.

Fulke, who eventually finished joint-fourth, could not sustain his challenge and, besides, Lehman was soon in a stretch of the golf course that he appeared to have annexed for his own pleasure. He birdied the 7th, 8th and 9th to move three strokes ahead of

Fulke and the birdie on the short 8th was his fourth there of the week. A 66 by Ernie Els, a 68 by Greg Norman, a 67 by Colin Montgomerie and a 68 by Payne Stewart meant top ten finishes for all these men. Stewart, it should not be forgotten, was only one stroke away from getting into the play-off for the 1999 Open. The pattern here is that some of the best players in the world are approaching their best form.

Nick Faldo, an avowed links specialist, is near enough that state to entertain hopes of

being able to raise his game this week. It could be an Open to rival that of 1993, when Norman won with a 64 in the last round and Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Nick Price and Els all followed closely behind.

Montgomerie's new low-key approach to the Open, in which he declines to talk about it, appears to be bearing fruit. "I have never played so well leading up to a major championship as I am now," he said, pointing out that his form since the PGA Championship at Wentworth has been consistently the best he has played. This run of form has contributed to his becoming the all-time leading money-winner in Europe, overtaking Bernhard Langer. "It has been a good week. I wanted to perform, but not necessarily to win — that would tire me out."

It is a shame that a tournament at such a beautiful venue should have been blighted by slow play on the course and slow traffic off it. Mont-

gomerie repeated his view that it was time the European Tour altered its slow-play procedures. He pointed out that play at the Congressional Club in last month's US Open was somewhat quicker than at Loch Lomond — "and the width of the fairways there to here was as night and day."

"Slow play needs to be raised again and again and again," Montgomerie said in words that should reverberate around the European Tour's headquarters. It was pointed out to Montgomerie that, in the 1947 Open at Hoylake, the starting times for the last day's two rounds for Fred Daly, who would go on to win, were 8.40am and 11.10am. Montgomerie looked impressed. "There you go," he said. "I rest my case."

Then, no doubt, he climbed into his car and tried to make a quick getaway from the club. Fat chance. It took 40 minutes to travel three miles — even for careful drivers and good putters.

### FINAL SCORES FROM LOCH LOMOND

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated  
200: T Lehman (US) 65, 66, 67, 67, 270; E Els (SA) 70, 69, 68, 69, 276; G Norman (Aus) 68, 69, 68, 69, 274; P Fulke (Swe) 70, 64, 68, 72, 274; M Hallberg (Swe) 67, 71, 71, 68, 68, 272; M Broadhurst (GB) 70, 68, 68, 69, 277; J Haggman (Swe) 63, 72, 71, 71, 275; R Almerby (Aus) 69, 72, 70, 68, 276; P O'Malley (Aus) 71, 68, 68, 69, 277; J James (US) 72, 71, 74, 67, 278; J Parmer (Swe) 70, 71, 69, 70, 278; J Rank (Swe) 70, 70, 68, 71; A Calvert (Vgt) 57, 67, 67, 68, 68

Day (US) 66, 72, 68, 73, 280; N Faldo 67, 73, 72, 68, 281; S McIsaac 68, 69, 71, 67, 281; Westwood 70, 73, 68, 72, 281; L Mize (US) 70, 69, 70, 72, 282; R Lee 70, 71, 73, 68, 283; Sland (Swe) 75, 67, 72, 68, 283; D Clarke 72, 68, 72, 70, 284; C Rocca (GB) 70, 71, 68, 75, 284; M Gronberg (Swe) 68, 69, 69, 76, 284; P Curry 63, 72, 70, 77, 283; R Murty (Ind) 69, 74, 73, 67, 284; J Johnson (Swe) 72, 71, 68, 72, 284; J Pate 68, 74, 71, 70, 285; R Russell 70, 72, 71, 71, 286; M A Javerne (Sri) 68, 73, 70, 71; P J Johnson (Swe) 72, 71, 68, 72, 286; J Pate 68, 74, 71, 70, 286; D Cooper 71, 70, 69, 73, 287; A Calvert 73, 68, 68, 73, 288; I Woodman 72, 71, 74, 67, 289; R Relfery 68, 74, 73, 70, 289; D Robertson 71, 72, 67, 74; P Heddon (Swe) 73, 70, 68, 75



Lehman enjoys the spoils of victory at Loch Lomond

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## ATHLETICS

# Murray faces up to temptation after comeback

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

YVONNE MURRAY, in her first significant track race for two years, qualified yesterday for the world championships in Athens next month, finally winning a two-year battle to overcome injuries. Murray finished second to Paula Radcliffe, the world cross-country champion, in the 5,000 metres at the British trials in Birmingham.

Murray, a former European champion and Olympic bronze medal-winner at 3,000 metres, used Radcliffe's forceful running during the second half of the race to squeeze inside the world champion's qualifying mark of 15min 40sec. Radcliffe won in 15min 30.3sec, Murray recording 15min 39.08sec.

Although Murray is now entitled to take her place in the Great Britain team, she said that she would take a day to think about it. She has recovered from the calf and back injuries that have kept her away from the limelight these past two years, but she is clearly some way below her best.

"The temptation is there to go, but I do not want to start putting pressure on myself," Murray said. "A one-off race is one thing, but having to run two heats and a final is another entirely. I will decide tomorrow and let the British Athletic Federation know."

Chris Rawlinson, who made his debut for Great Britain in the European Cup last month, finishing fifth, maintained his position as Britain's No 1 400 metres hurdler. Recording a personal best of 49.09sec, Rawlinson pulled Gary Jennings, in second place, to a world championships qualifying time.

These championships meant different things to different people. To some, it was the chance of a first international championship; to others, Athens held no great appeal. Paul Head, winner of the hammer, fell into the latter category. Head threw 71.55 metres, but does not possess the world

championships qualifying standard of 74 metres. He is not rushing to find a competition where he might achieve it before the Athens entries close on July 22.

"I tried that last year for the Olympics and wiped myself out," Head said. "I have been to three world championships, done the Olympics, done the European championships twice, done the European Cup. I am an old man and I am not chasing qualification anymore."

Head is, in fact, only 32, compared with the 39 of Judy Oakes, who won her 39th national title, throwing 18.42 metres in the shot yesterday.

Results ..... 37

the 30 of Bob Weir, who won the discus with 63.74 metres yesterday, and the 41 of Tessa Sanderson, who won the javelin on Saturday.

Sanderson, the 1984 Olympic champion, will be the oldest member of Britain's team in Athens, by some years. In her first competition of 1997, she won without being remotely challenged, the oldest slinger in town, but still the best. The lack of good opposition disappointed her.

"The competition out there was very boring — there is no other word for it," Sanderson said. She will be going to Athens 23 years after appearing in her first senior interna-



Sanderson: still the best

tional championship. "I tried to lift myself, but it was difficult."

Sanderson threw her winning distance of 58.30 metres in the first round. "It was not until the fourth round that they came out with 54," she said. "It was not like a major championships, where you can keep your mind buzzing."

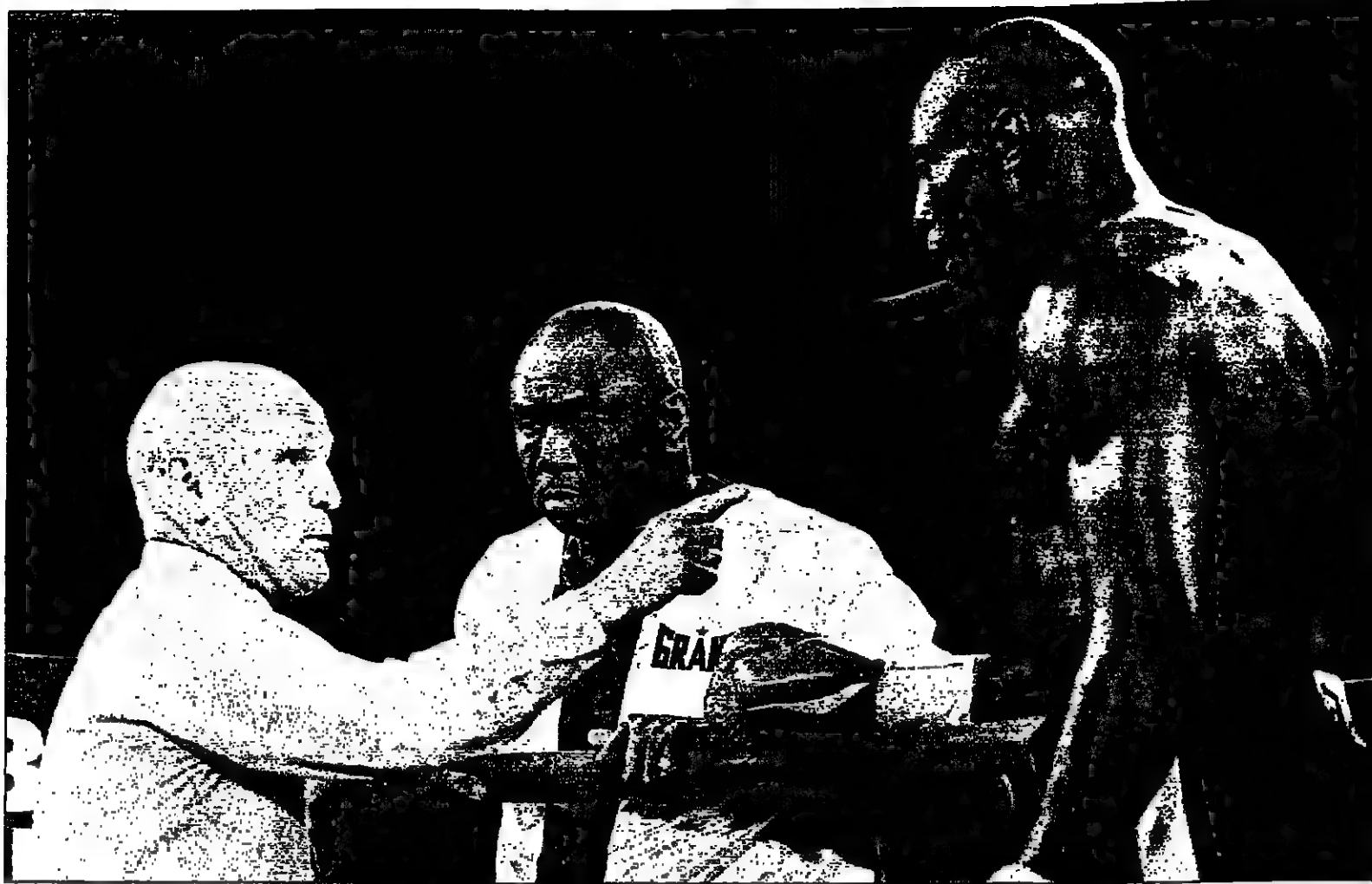
Asked whether she might attempt to continue until the next Olympics, when she would be 44, Sanderson accused her inquirer of being "funny" before saying: "Definitely not." In Atlanta, she became the first British athlete to compete in six Olympics when she said she was "throwing for the grannies".

"I have done my job," the former Commonwealth Games and World Cup champion said. "I have done what I have to do for my country and for myself. The main reason I came back this season was to encourage young throwers."

Together with Kelly Holmes and Denise Lewis, who was third in the Atlanta Olympics heptathlon, Ashia Hansen is a prospective British medal-winner in the women's events in Athens. Hansen improved her British and Commonwealth triple jump record to 14.94 metres at the British grand prix in Sheffield two weeks ago, but needed only 14.10 metres here to win by a metre.

Colin Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world record-holder, put a brave face on his defeat by Tony Jarrett on Saturday. Although Jackson has won only one race this season, he said that he felt he would still be a contender to win in Athens, noting with particular relish that no athlete had come close to breaking the 13sec barrier this season.

However, in Stuttgart yesterday, Allen Johnson, the world and Olympic champion, recorded 12.97sec. In Birmingham, Jackson recorded 13.39sec and Jarrett, twice a world silver medal-winner, 13.33sec.



Lane warns Akinwande against holding during the second round of the world title contest with Lewis on Saturday. He later disqualified him.

## Akinwande lands boxing's latest blow

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN LAKE TAHOE

JUST when everyone was hoping that boxing would make a fresh start, after being disgraced by Mike Tyson 14 days ago, the disqualification of Henry Akinwande in the fifth round of his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship contest with Lennox Lewis on Saturday left the sport in an even more dishevelled state.

Akinwande refused to listen to the referee, Mills Lane, who told him to stop holding and to get on with the contest and the referee who also disqualified Tyson could do nothing else but, after repeated warnings, throw the challenger out.

The two British boxers had a chance to give boxing its name back and also to make a name for themselves by providing a competitive contest, but neither Lewis, the holder, nor Akinwande impressed. The fifth-round disqualification left Akinwande with-

out his purse of \$1 million and with a suspension pending an inquiry. The Nevada State Athletic Commission meets next week and Akinwande has 30 days to present his case. Because of a new law passed two days ago, he could lose more than ten per cent of his purse, which was, hitherto, the maximum the commission could withhold.

Lewis, who had been hoping to make a big impression in the United States with a spectacular win, failed to satisfy his fans or silence American critics who are yet to be convinced that he is a worthy heavyweight champion. The bout turned out to be little more than a wrestling match and, despite chants of disapproval from the crowd of 2,000 and repeated warnings by Lane, neither man could turn it into a boxing match.

Lewis was not entirely blameless, for he did not try to raise the level of boxing, as he is more than capable of doing. Instead of extricating himself from Akinwande's arm locks and beating him back with devastating combinations inside, he allowed the challenger to hold and hold.

Akinwande was terrified of Lewis from the moment he received the first glancing blow in the first round and, as early as the second, he was warned by Lane to stop holding. Soon it became clear that Akinwande would not heed the referee's words and that pushing and pulling would be the order of the day.

True, Lewis landed the heavier and more hurtful blows, particularly one upper cut to the chin in the fourth round and a tremendous right to the ribs in the fifth, but generally he preferred to allow Akinwande to hold.

Lane had taken a point off Akinwande in the second round and, after warning his corner that he would be disqualified if he continued to hold, he became completely exasperated when he found himself in the middle of the two six-footers struggling to separate them. The two men finally broke free and Lane took Akinwande back to his corner and told him that he was disqualified. The crowd went mad and chanted obscenities and one spectator threw a glass of beer into the

ring in disgust. All the usual excuses were made after the contest, both sides blaming each other. Akinwande said: "I don't know why they're holding my purse. I tried to step backwards, but he did not take a step back. It was not wholly my fault. I was trying to stop him doing what he does best, hoping in later rounds to start pushing him back."

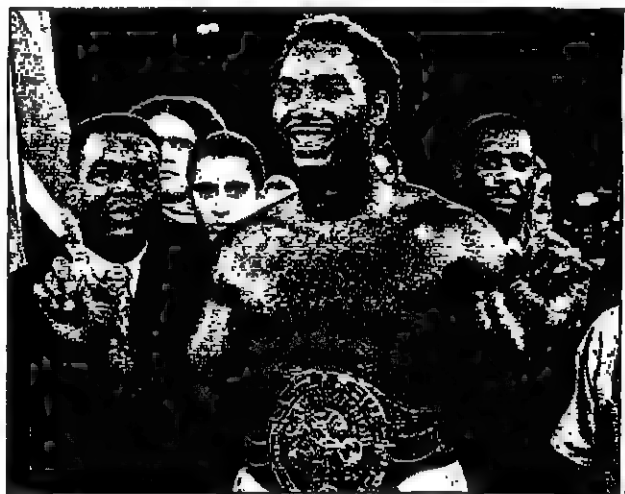
Akinwande's trainer, Don Turner, said: "I told him that Mills Lane had told me he was going to disqualify him if he carried on holding, but I don't know what happened."

Lewis said: "I was getting frustrated. This was to be my coming-out fight, to show my fans what I could do. He didn't give me the opportunity. I think, when he felt my energy

and power, Henry decided to hold. Henry likes to box from the outside, so I brought it inside. If he wants to say he is a great boxer, then he has to learn how to box inside as well."

Heavyweight boxing does not appear to have too bright a future until Evander Holyfield, who is now on holiday, returns to the ring. Until that time, the sport will have to live with the stigma of two disgraceful episodes within a fortnight. Holyfield is expected to come back in November for a unification bout with Michael Moorer. In the meantime, the sport will be graced by a contest between Lewis and George Foreman, who is 48, in October. Foreman said, after the Lewis v Akinwande fight, that he would definitely meet Lewis. Since Lewis also wants the bout, it is bound to happen.

Before that, it will be Andrew Golota against Ray Mercer next month. Mercer will be remembered for being involved in a case in which he was accused of telling Jesse Ferguson, his opponent, to throw the fight. Golota will be remembered for his two disqualifications against Riddick Bowe. No wonder the paying customers, who have sat through five Tyson fiascos and then five disqualifications in the past 13 months (two involving Golota, one involving Oliver McCall, then Tyson and now Akinwande) are wondering when they will get their money's worth.



Lewis leaves the ring after retaining his WBC belt

## RUGBY LEAGUE: MEMORABLE VICTORY SHIFTS ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL STRIFE

### Broncos maintain challenge

LONDON Broncos gained a valuable morale-booster yesterday for their game against Canberra Raiders next week with a 50-8 Stones Super League victory over Sheffield Eagles — their biggest away win of the season. The Broncos full of confidence after their impressive 39-12 win over Wigan nine days earlier, ran in eight tries as they put a poor Sheffield side to the sword. Scott Roskell, the wing who is the club's leading try-scorer, touched down twice.

The Broncos, unbeaten in the league since May 9, produced some outstanding rugby by as they surged to their sixth consecutive win in the league, maintaining their quest for the runners-up spot behind the Bradford Bulls. London established a clear ascendancy within the first seven minutes with tries by Barwick and Roskell, punishing mistakes by the full back, Sovatavua, and wing, Garcia. They raced to a 44-0 half-time lead with a second try by Roskell and others by Roskell, Hamilton, Matterson and Tollett. Matterson kicked five goals and Barwick three.

Senior pulled a try back for Sheffield within five minutes of the restart and Sovatavua made amends for his early lapse by also going over. Roskell, with a second try, and Barwick, with his fourth goal, were London's only second-half scorers.

Widnes, one of the game's top clubs only a few years ago, were almost certainly condemned to the second division for the first time in an illustrious history after a 30-14 home defeat by Featherstone Rovers.

### Paris declare home rule

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A DISPUTE over whether the main Australian and New Zealand players who represent Paris Saint-Germain are legally entitled to be in the country was eclipsed, briefly, on Saturday night by the most memorable victory in the club's short and turbulent history. Whatever the future holds, a 30-28 defeat of Wigan will be a lasting memory.

Paris hauled back a 28-16 deficit and pulled themselves off the bottom of the Stones Super League with two tries in the last 13 minutes, by Phil Bergman, both converted by Matt O'Connor, whose winning goal was roared over at the Charlety Stadium by the dwindling band of home supporters in a crowd of 2,560.

It was Paris's first home league win this season, a timely rejoinder to the strife and bitterness that has engulfed the Super League's continental outpost. Not even the opening night defeat last year of Sheffield Eagles, when more than 17,000 packed the place for the start of the Super League era, quite compared with beating Wigan, whose previous loss at London Broncos was bad enough.

Accusations that players are operating on tourist visas rather than work permits and that the club has failed to pay tax to the French authorities were made last week by the Dabes brothers, Laurent and Nicolas, the club's publicity and sponsorship agents, who Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, said were simply making trouble.

The Dabes have been involved with the club since its formation. Their claims come against a background of de-

clining attendances and threats by the brothers to sue the club over money they say is owed to them.

Lindsay, a director at Paris, rejected allegations of mismanagement. "The club has been very open with all the official bodies, and the tax and national insurance contributions have been faithfully declared in this country and sent to the British tax authorities. If there is any further regularisation required, we are confident that Philippe Dalongeville [the French Rugby League Federation treasurer] and the French office have everything in hand," he said.

The claim about visas raised

the farcical prospect of the Paris players not being allowed back into the country after their second phase of world club championship matches in Australia. Unlike most other European clubs, Paris are looking forward to the resumption of the event after their defeat of Perth Reds, which has left them well placed for a quarter-final play-off spot.

As preparation for meeting Brisbane Broncos at home next Sunday, Wigan could not have fared worse. They casually built up a commanding lead after they trailed 16-8 at half-time, and just as casually threw it away.

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Rob Hughes shares the high emotion of a worthy tribute to the bravest of British cyclists

# Family sustains Simpson's indomitable spirit

In the high and remote French Alps, a young Englishwoman yesterday made the ultimate memorial to her father and to the summit of cathartic exercise. It was 30 years to the day, on July 13, 1967, that Tom Simpson, the greatest cyclist England has produced, died in the extreme heat and altitude of the Tour de France, less than one kilometre from the barren peak of Mont Ventoux, 88 miles north of Marseilles.

The story of yesterday is one that expands the essence of sport. Tom Simpson's daughter, Joanne, who was four when he died, is not a cyclist — she works as a computer design technician — but it was in the search to know more about her father, more about the genes and the nature she inherited, that she decided to assault Mont Ventoux.

She was hardly alone. There were 14 riders in this memorial event, far fewer, of course, than in the Tour de France hundreds of miles away. Two of Simpson's contemporaries, Barry Hoban and Vin Denson, men who had been riding in support of him that fateful afternoon, pedalled alongside or behind Joanne.

Indeed, Hoban, having carried to the noblest extreme the notion of supporting Simpson's family — he married Simpson's widow, Helen, gave her a third daughter and brought up the family as his own — was extending the cycle even further. He was shepherding Simpson's nephew, Thomas, 14, up the same mountain until the gearing, but definitely not the inherited Simpson stubbornness in athletic pursuit, gave way on Thomas's bike.



Joanne Simpson, left, is congratulated by her mother, Helen, after climbing Mont Ventoux and then, watched by Helen and her cousin, Thomas, places a plaque on her father's memorial. Photographs: Gill Allen



Simpson at his best, a stage winner on the Tour of Sardinia



It was Hoban, shedding unabashed tears at the end, who put into perspective this ride for the daughter of the friend he still defends, still misses. "None of us had any idea how long this ride would take Joanne," Hoban said. In fact, the 26-kilometre climb from Saulx to the summit took two hours.

Time was not of the essence, though, and family spirit certainly was. "Having helped Joanne to train for something she had never done in her life, I knew she would get there," Hoban said. "She has so much of her father's temperament and approach to life."

As Joanne passed the grey marble memorial stone, on which the French pay homage to Simpson — *médaille olympique, champion du monde, ambassadeur sportif, Britannique* — she caught her breath, literally. "It was the most dreadful moment," she said when embracing her mother, Helen, immediately after the finish. "I just couldn't breathe for a moment — the emotion, I suppose, because all the rest

felt absolutely fantastic. I have a heart monitor on me and I never went above 160. I'm allowed to go to 185. It's just at that moment, passing the monument, I choked up."

Emotion gripped every one of us on that cruel mountain where, in heat of SSC (131P), Simpson had literally pushed himself beyond life's endurance. It would be false, and unworthy, not to admit that Simpson, like virtually every rider of his generation, had attempted to mask the pain and endurance levels with drugs. He was found to have taken amphetamines and the public prosecutor at Avignon stated that, while the drugs were not of sufficient quantity to cause his death, they could have committed him to surpass his limits of strength and stamina.

Even here, even amid the intimacy of this family reunion, this tribute to their man, Hoban was unafraid yesterday to confront the issue. Barely 24 hours previously, Djarmalidone Abdoujaparov,

of Uzbekistan, had been disqualified from the Tour de France because of drug abuse. "I will defend Tom to anyone, always and forever," Hoban said. "He was not a victim of the drug, he was a victim of himself, one of those very few men I have met in any walk of life who would push and push himself, because he wanted so badly to win the Tour, he wanted so badly to prove that an Englishman could do it."

None has, but an Australian voice on the top of this strange mountain, an extinct volcano that begins in fertile splendour, boasts a most wonderful carpet of lavender, but which, at the height where Simpson fell, is as bleak and lifeless as the face of the moon, paid yet another cyclist's tribute to Simpson. Ron Baines, a rough and rugged man, who was helping to translate Simpson's ability to six-day cycle racing, said: "I've come over here because I knew Joanne was going to attempt to do this. She's really a chip off the

old block. And like Barry says, in the days when Tom was about, they were all taking something, as if they were sweets. Anyway, one of the drugs Tom had was an old people's drug. It helped to stimulate the circulation, to move the blood quicker through the capillaries, to the legs and thighs, where it is needed. That's not taking drugs."

It is, with deadly consequence, Simpson, a man I knew, would not have consumed amphetamines to cheat others, but in despair to prevent himself from being cheated by cyclists whom he knew — and in those days the whole sport knew — were taking them.

Yet yesterday was not remembered for recriminations, more for the remarkable Simpson approach to living. As Joanne ascended Mont Ventoux, Chris Sidwells, the nephew of Simpson and himself an accomplished rider, was heard to give vocal encouragement.

"Just think about breathing ... breathing," he said, without any irony. The woman at his side, Joanne, was never in difficulty. She rode through her early pain threshold, she found a rhythm that pleased her body and, from time to time, whenever she saw a familiar face or made a new friend with the characteristic openness that was Tom Simpson's nature, she posted. "Do you think Daddy was showing off like I am?" she remarked at 22 kilometres.

Before the start, serious for a moment, she had looked across to her mother, who was

struggling through obvious emotion and remembrance. "I heard right through my childhood of what a friendly person Daddy was," Joanne said. Then, suddenly switching her vocabulary to speak of "living with Tom, eating, sleeping and learning about him for a whole year", she concluded: "My mother only started grieving for him this year, it's only been this event that has allowed her to stop closing it up."

Helen Simpson agreed to the accuracy of that account. "I am so proud of you, I really am," she had said to her

daughter at the memorial. And Joanne had kept two secrets, about to be unveiled. A lone piper, Luc Vercauteren, a friend of Joanne's from Belgium, stood in the Mackenzie tarmac and belted out the theme of *Highland Cathedral*. Vercauteren, a social worker, became a member of the Gent Pipe Band, formed by Malcolm MacKenzie two years ago, and his presence was requested by Joanne.

Then, unknown to anybody, she produced a small brass plate to put on the face of the memorial stone. It said: "There is no mountain too

high — your daughters, Jane and Joanne, July 13, 1997."

Joanne, the younger daughter by a year, had spoken her own memorial to Tom Simpson on the face of the mountain. "You either are a Simpson, or you aren't," she had shouted.

The spirit lives and, under the fading light of yesterday evening, started by four youths choosing to skateboard down the mountain path, somehow evading oncoming traffic, one could not disagree that the intrepid spirit and the cruel mountain are made for one and other.

## Boardman well prepared to continue higher education

FROM JEREMY WHITTE IN PAU

THE moment of truth for Chris Boardman's Tour de France challenge comes early this afternoon in the Pyrenees, when he will face the brutal climb of the Col du Soulor, the first mountain pass in the race this year.

With the fast and nervous flat stages over, Boardman, the former Olympic pursuit champion, knows that a high final placing will depend on how he copes with the hours of suffering among the spectacular peaks of the Alps and Pyrenees.

"I have done my best to get ready for the mountains," Boardman said yesterday. "I have done a lot of mountainous races and I weigh as little as I ever have done, so tomorrow things come to the crunch."

Boardman negotiated the chaotic opening stages last week, in which four of the favourites crashed out of the race, with unexpected maturity and entered the Tour's vital second week with every reason to believe he can achieve a placing in the final top ten.

"Thus far, I have looked after myself and stayed out of trouble," he said, holding up

crossed fingers, "so I can't complain. Everything has gone well and I have not wasted a lot of energy. To be honest, I have been riding better than I ever have."

His consistency has drawn admiration from even the Telekom team, for whom Bjarni Riis, the defending champion, rides. "He's going really well," Udo Bolts, of Germany, Riis's principal aide in the high mountains, said. "We consider him one of the best and will be watching him closely."

Boardman, from Merseyside, trained on most of the main climbs on the Tour route this year during the spring, storing notes on the difficulty of each mountain pass. "Having seen the mountains already certainly helps," he said. "I have made a lot of notes on each climb and I will be



looking at those on the eve of each stage to refresh my memory, but I am not banking everything on the first day in the Pyrenees. The race is bound to explode, but the days that come afterwards are important, too."

The flat prelude to the mountain stages last week, which climaxed in the frenetic

sprint in Marennes on Friday, has left its mark on the history of the Tour for all the wrong reasons. For the image-conscious Tour organisers, the disqualification of Djarmalidone Abdoujaparov, of Uzbekistan, for a positive drugs test was a serious blow, as was the loss on Friday of Yevgeny Berzin, of Russia, yet another of the favourites, after breaking his collar-bone.

Far worse than the embarrassment caused by Abdoujaparov, however, were the damning words of Tom Steels, the Belgian sprinter, who was thrown out of the race after uncharacteristically hurling a bottle at Frederic Moncassin, of France. "The tour doesn't care about the riders any more," Steels said as he left the Tour to fly home. "We are treated like animals. There is no respect shown for us."

Steels's words were echoed by Erik Zabel, of Germany, who was disqualified after winning on Friday but was a defiant and unquestioned victor in both Bordeaux and Pau over the weekend. "The race jury should have had a meeting with all the sprinters and maybe penalised them all rather than picking on one or two," Zabel said.

The fast stage to the fortified city of Pau yesterday, won in another well-timed sprint by Zabel after his Telekom team chased down a fruitless attack by Fabio Baldini, of Italy, brought a first week of high-speed crashes and feuding to a close and heralded the arrival of the Tour's decisive phase.

"I could have fallen in any of the bad crashes last week," Riis said at the start of yesterday's stage among the Saumeres vineyards, "but tomorrow is when my Tour really begins. The mountains are what I have been waiting for."

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EIGHTH STAGE (Bordeaux to Pau, 191km): 1, Zabel (Ger, Telekom); 2, B. S. (Bel, GAN); 3, S. S. (Bel, GAN); 4, M. S. (Bel, GAN); 5, S. O. (Aus, GAN); 6, G. M. (Fra, GAN); 7, T. S. (Bel, GAN); 8, S. S. (Bel, GAN); 9, N. J. (Bel, GAN); 10, A. B. (Bel, GAN); 11, G. P. (Can, Matutu de Seine); 12, N. M. (Bel, GAN); 13, A. T. (Bel, GAN); 14, F. B. (Bel, GAN); 15, D. B. (Bel, GAN); 16, M. J. (US, US Postal Service); 17, V. H. (US, US Postal Service); 18, V. H. (US, US Postal Service).

LEADING OVERALL POSITIONS: 1, V. Bona (Fra, GAN); 2, Zabel (Ger, Telekom); 3, B. S. (Bel, GAN); 4, J. B. B. (Fra, GAN); 5, R. M. (Fra, GAN); 6, J. S. (Fra, GAN); 7, H. V. (Aus, GAN); 8, F. M. (Fra, GAN); 9, N. J. (Bel, GAN); 10, M. T. (Bel, GAN); 11, G. P. (Can, Matutu de Seine); 12, N. M. (Bel, GAN); 13, A. T. (Bel, GAN); 14, F. B. (Bel, GAN); 15, D. B. (Bel, GAN); 16, M. J. (US, US Postal Service); 17, V. H. (US, US Postal Service); 18, V. H. (US, US Postal Service).

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RUGBY UNION: UNCERTAINTY OVER COACH AND CAPTAIN THREATENS BUILD-UP TO WORLD CUP

# England fazed by leading questions

Australia ..... 25  
England ..... 6

FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN SYDNEY

ENGLAND return home today from their ill-fated venture to Australia with respectability behind them and ambition in front. That they were beaten comfortably on Saturday at the Sydney Football Stadium was no surprise in the circumstances, but there is a striking conviction among the management and players that much of the hard work in building a World Cup side for 1998 has been accomplished.

Yet some hard decisions are still to be made. It is imperative that the Rugby Football Union determines the management structure for the next two years — and the record of Jack Rowell as coach suggests there is nobody better, in England at least, on the horizon. Rowell has said repeatedly, however, that if it comes to a choice between rugby and his business life, the latter will take priority. "I would like to finish the job," he said yesterday, but he acknowledges that if change has to be made, it must be now.

The union should not perceive Rowell's priorities as an escape clause. A full-time coach is not an imperative and the time element can still be managed. Should Rowell be confirmed next month, then he, in turn, must examine the fine-tuning of his squad and whether Phil de Glanville should remain as captain.

Saturday was not De Glanville's most memorable outing in England colours, but even if it had been he faces a considerable challenge for his position at centre from Jeremy Guscott. Will Greenwood and the man he played alongside in Sydney, Nick Greenstock. When England appeared for the post-match press conference, Rowell and De Glanville were accompanied by Lawrence Dallaglio, whose qualifications for the captaincy are as valid as those of Martin Johnson, the British Isles leader, whose motivational qualities are admired by Rowell.

De Glanville's year in office has bought Rowell breathing time, an interregnum after the departure of Will Carling. It has been distinguished by the Bath centre's good humour and intelligence, by a triple crown and by the amiable spirit that pervades the England camp. Nevertheless, at the highest level, De Glanville will always be short of pace. In this match, his faltering defence was directly responsible for the first two tries.

The first of these, scored by Burke after Roff plunged into the line from the blind-side wing, was not so significant as the second, because while England hung on at 8-3, then 8-6 down, they could always give themselves a chance of victory. When Tane pushed off De Glanville for the second try, the defence finally broke down and it was no surprise that two more Australia tries followed.

Not that Australia had so much cause for rejoicing themselves. That they bounced back from defeat in New Zealand to take the



Redman, right, faces the pace and power of Morgan as Australia launch one of many sustained attacks on the England line on Saturday

inaugural Cook Trophy was all very well, but their failure to benefit from overwhelming territorial domination for the first hour is not an encouraging sign for their meeting with New Zealand in front of 100,000 spectators at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on July 26.

Greg Smith, their coach, knows it and his reaction in private will be substantially different to his philosophical public face. Smith acknowledged England's difficulties with physical fatigue: "I hope people will be sympathetic towards us when we play England at Twickenham later in the year," he said, knowing that he and his squad must cross time-zones from Argentina for the return match on November 15.

"I have always been an advocate of 'fly-in, fly-out' matches, but that [still] requires time to get your feet under the table," Rowell said of a match in which his squad came together with time for only two meaningful run-outs. "When England play, we should be able to put our best foot forward and do justice to

the ability we have got. We have played a 15-man game at home, we have aspirations to do it in the big league... and I'm confident that England will make a big strike at the World Cup."

As it was, Rowell's players could offer character, a competitive set-piece and little more. As the Lions found in South Africa, it is seldom easy to recover possession in the southern hemisphere and

even harder when referees play ducks and drakes with ruck-and-maul ball. Australia built from a stream of scrums, but stern defence in the first half limited them to Burke's try and a penalty by Eales, on a night when place-kicking (one from five) was not his forte.

In response, Stimpson kicked the only goal he was offered and England lost Dawson with a bruised shoulder at the interval. Five minutes into the second half, they paid their first visit to Australia's 22 and Healey, the replacement scrum half, might have been aggrieved not to win a penalty when he broke, chipped ahead and Burke made a half-hearted attempt to block him.

Catt's dropped goal induced a frenzy of hope, which was killed when Australia sustained an admirable build-up and Tane finished with finesse. Within two minutes, Burke had slipped a pass to Tane on the right and the wing danced past the cover before feeding Cregan inside for the third try.

At that stage, a difficult final quarter loomed for England and it is to their credit that their tired legs permitted only one more score. Australia taking a tapped penalty and Roff sending Horan to the line.

SCORERS: Australia: Tane, Burke, Tane, Cregan, Horan, Conners, Burke, Penalty goal: Eales, England: Penalty goal: Stimpson. Dropped goal: Catt.

AUSTRALIA: M Burke (New South Wales), B Tane (Queensland), J S Little (Queensland), J Holt (Australian Capital Territory), J W Roff (ACT), T J Horan (Queensland), C M Rogers (ACT), C Blades (NSW), M A Foley (Queensland), E J McKenzie (ACT), D T Mann (NSW), G Morgan (Queensland), J A Eales (Queensland), captain, B J Robinson (ACT), T Cower (ACT). McKenzie replaced by A Blades (NSW). Cower temporarily replaced by D J Wilson (Queensland, 35-56).

ENGLAND: T R Stimpson (Newcastle), J Bentley (Newcastle), P R de Glanville (Bath), captain, N J J Gomersall (Worcester), N D Bull (Northampton), M J Galt (Bath), J S Dawson (Northampton), G C Rowlands (Leicester), M P Regin (Bristol), D J Gafferty (Leicester), L B M Duggie (Worcester), R A Hill (Saracens), T A Rother (Northampton), Dawson replaced by A Healey (Leicester), Hill replaced by B B Clarke (Richmond, 88).

Referee: P D O'Brien (New Zealand)

## Proctor spares Welsh blushes

WALES began the second international against the United States on Saturday demanding, and expecting, a more impressive performance and conclusive victory than they carried in the first game a week earlier. In the event, they left San Francisco relieved to have won — by 28-23 — at all.

Indeed, but for three tries from Wayne Proctor — his first hat-trick in an international — they would surely have lost, a ignominy prevented only by some desperate defending as the Americans

piled on the pressure at the end. Proctor, the Llanelli wing, struck twice in the first half, helping Wales to a 13-6 lead at the break, but saved his best try for the second period, when he beat his opposite number, Brian Highower, and Chris Morrow, the full back, in a 30-metre touchline run.

Jason Walker, the United States No.8, pulled back the deficit when he burrowed over from a scrum and Matt Alexander's conversion tied the scores, before Proctor and Arwel Thomas, with a conver-

sion, reclaimed the lead. It did not last long — Vaea Anitori, the wing, touched down and Alexander converted again — and it was left to Thomas, after a lucky bounce, to score what proved to be the winning try.

SCORERS: United States: Tries: Anitori, Walker, Conners, Alexander (2). Penalty goal: Alexander (2). Wales: Tries: Proctor (2), A Thomas, Gomersall, A Thomas. Penalty goal: A Thomas (2). UNITED STATES: C Morgan, V Anitori, T Talar, M Schumacher, S Highower, M Alexander, A Bannister, C Abbott, J Blythe, R Lehner, D Lyle, J Pascari, L Gross, D Hodges, J Walker, J Wilson.

WALS: P Morgan, W Proctor, L Davies, C Thomas, J Walker, A Thomas, P John, I Burrell, R McDowell, L Macdonald, A Galt, G Lewin, M Taylor, H Thomas, G Jones (captain).

## SPEEDWAY

### Team spirit drives Swindon

By TONY HOARE

SWINDON'S victory at Coventry on Saturday put the Robins firmly back in the Elite League championship race as the main contenders approached the halfway mark. Two points from the encounter at Brandon left the Wiltshire

club off the top spot by just one point and a home win in the return fixture last night would have sent them three points clear of Eastbourne at the top of the table. The title has not headed to Blunston since 1967, when Barry Briggs,

the multiple world champion, spearheaded their side.

After a poor start in the Speedway Star Cup, Swindon found themselves on the receiving end of a boycott from a number of supporters, who claimed that the team was not good enough to compete in the Elite League. However, under the control of Peter Toohey, who is in his second year as sole promoter, the riders have silenced their critics.

While the Swindon No.1, Leigh Adams, an Australian, who competes in the world championship grand prix, is second in the Elite League rankings at present, with an average of more than ten points per meeting, it is team spirit that has fuelled Swindon's success. All the riders live in the town and, with Nick Bell, an experienced manager, looking after tactics, they have risen to the occasion.

The team captain is Jimmy Nilsen, 30, the reigning Swedish champion, who spent seven seasons at the top of the sport before falling into a three-year slump. After enjoying a superb 1996 campaign, Nilsen feels the spirit at Swindon is the best he has experienced at any club. "Everyone is shouting for the same thing; it doesn't matter who is scoring as an individual, we want to win as a team," he said.

## FOOTBALL

### Ferguson hopes to buy Silva

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, could end his search for a new central defender this week by signing Cello Silva, of Brazil. Ferguson has admitted that he is keen to make one more significant signing before the start of the season.

Ferguson has "one bullet left in the transfer gun", according to Martin Edwards, the chairman, while the manager himself has been quoted as saying: "We have asked about Silva and we are hoping to get him over to England in the next few days to have a chat." Miguel Angel Nadal, the Barcelona defender, is thought to be the other name on Ferguson's list.

David Ginola was last night meeting Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, to discuss a move to White Hart Lane from Newcastle United. The 29-year-old is believed to be available for £2.6 million and Olivier Godolier, Ginola's agent, said he expected that the meeting would produce "a happy outcome".

Paul McGrath has signed for West Ham United on a free transfer from Derby County, while Marco Pascolo, the Switzerland goalkeeper, is poised to join Nottingham Forest for £1 million.

## TODAY

### CRICKET

Teddy Bitter Festival 11.6, 50 overs  
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Lancashire (2)

ADON RISK TROPHY (one day): Benwell Hill, Durham v Yorkshire, Llanelli, Glamorgan v Worcestershire, Taunton, Somerset v Gloucestershire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (J): Northants v North Devon, Gloucestershire v Lancashire, Radlett, Hertfordshire v Norfolk, Tyne-Wear, Northumberland v Cambridgeshire, Cheshire v Shropshire, Wales, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan v Cornwall

GOLF: Open Championship final qualifying (Wentworth, Berkshire, Glasgow, Gairloch, Western Isles, Irvine, Bognor Regis)  
RACING: Ayr (12.15), Fallowfield (2.0), Windsor (6.30), Wolverhampton (6.45)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Wolverhampton v Bradford (7.30), Premier League: Exeter v Newport (7.30), Reading v Stoke (7.30)

TOMORROW  
CRICKET  
BOVES STRESS CHALLENGE (one day): Scarborough: Yorkshire v Holland

RUGBY UNION  
TOUR MATCH: Ontario v Wales XV in Hamilton (midnight West)

OTHER SPORT  
RACING: Boreley (12.0), Brighton (12.15), SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup, Senneville, Sandown v Eastbourne (7.30), Premier League: Hull v Long Eaton (7.30), Amateur League: St Albans v Ipswich and King's Lynn (7.30)

WEDNESDAY  
CRICKET  
TOUR MATCHES (three days): Cardiff: Glamorgan, Worcester, Gloucestershire v Somerset, Gloucestershire v Somerset, Gloucestershire v Somerset, Gloucestershire v Somerset

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): Chesham, Gloucestershire v Derbyshire, Gloucestershire v Derbyshire, Gloucestershire v Derbyshire, Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

OTHER SPORT  
RACING: Brighton (6.20), Canford (12.15), Doncaster (6.30), Sandown Park (2.05), Worcester (6.10), Warrmouth (1.50)

## GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: King's Lynn v Wolverhampton (7.45), Stoke v Eastbourne (7.30), Premier League: Long Eaton v Hull (7.30), Challenge: Championship (in Manchester)

THURSDAY  
GOLF: Open Championship at Royal Troon  
RACING: Bath (2.0), Leicester (2.15), SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Poole (7.30), Premier League: Shetfield v Doncaster (7.30)

FRIDAY  
RUGBY LEAGUE  
SUPER LEAGUE VISA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool B: Penrith v Featherston, Warrington Wolves (10.30am), Pool B: Leeds Rhinos v Adelaide Rams (7.30), Northern Bears v North Queensland Cowboys (7.30)

OTHER SPORT  
GOLF: Open Championship at Royal Troon  
RACING: Maresfield (2.40), Newcastle (2.30), Newcastle (2.30), Portsmouth (6.45), Salisbury (6.20), Southport (2.20)

SATURDAY  
CRICKET  
TOUR MATCHES (three days): Lord's: Middlesex v Lancashire, Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire

RUGBY LEAGUE  
SUPER LEAGUE VISA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool B: Penrith v Featherston, Warrington Wolves (10.30am), Pool B: Leeds Rhinos v Adelaide Rams (7.30), Northern Bears v North Queensland Cowboys (7.30)

OTHER SPORT  
GOLF: Open Championship at Royal Troon  
RACING: Maresfield (2.40), Newcastle (2.30), Newcastle (2.30), Portsmouth (6.45), Salisbury (6.20), Southport (2.20)

SUNDAY  
CRICKET  
AXA LIFE LEAGUE (40 overs): Chesham: Gloucestershire v Derbyshire, Canterbury: Kent v Leicestershire, Old Trafford: Lancashire v Somerset, Northampton: Northamptonshire v Essex, Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire, Guildford: Hampshire v Lancashire

OTHER SPORT  
GOLF: Open Championship at Royal Troon  
RACING: Maresfield (2.40), Newcastle (2.30), Newcastle (2.30), Portsmouth (6.45), Salisbury (6.20), Southport (2.20)

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## Union must put unity at top of the agenda

DAVID HANDS



Rugby Union Commentary

It is time for magnanimity. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has wasted 18 months, money and energy in a power struggle that has seen the union's credit dissolve at home and abroad only to find itself at precisely the point it occupied in January 1996, when Cliff Brittle was elected chairman of the executive committee.

Last Friday night, Brittle, by 599 votes to 357 — an aggregate that is less than half the clubs in membership — was elected chairman of the new board of management at the RFU annual meeting. That verdict must now be accepted with both sides realising that whatever mistakes may have been made since the advent of professionalism, the only way forward can be through co-operation.

However, the greatest responsibility now lies with Brittle. He has the mandate that he wanted, but he is well aware that there is a balance to be struck between those who are paid to work for the game and those who volunteer their services. Among the latter, many of them with substantial expertise and experience to offer, are individuals who have opposed him, sometimes bitterly, in the belief that he is a disruptive influence.

In much of the verbal skirmishing that has taken place between the two factions on the RFU have been implicit threats that Twickenham is some Aangan stable that must be cleaned. Since a judicial inquiry, by Judge Gerald Butler, is being pursued into just that suggestion, talk of blood-letting is not only emotive but premature. The judge's verdict — expected towards the end of September — could conceivably impugn not only last Friday's losing camp but also the winners.

Besides, witch-hunts can rebound upon the heads of those who pursue them. The facts are that most, if not all, of the senior unpaid positions within the RFU committee structure have been democratically filled already and that the senior paid position — that of chief executive — is under review. Tony Hallett, secretary of the union since 1995 and now acting chief executive, will be informed in October by a review panel whether his work is up to scratch.

Hallett's besetting sin, according to his opponents, was his negotiation of the BSkyB television deal that not only limited the number of television viewers, but created a rift within the five nations. As matters stand, ITV has come in as a terrestrial partner and rugby union has a mixed economy of coverage from which it should benefit. England remain within the five nations' championship and have a responsibility to sustain it as effectively as they can, while retaining the freedom to make fixtures with the southern hemisphere.

This is no time for place men. Brittle must show that he can manage the work of the union by utilising the best talents available, and not all the volunteers will be those he

favours. It would be no surprise to find Fran Cotton, lately manager of the British Isles, appearing on one of the policy-making committees, but at the other end of the political spectrum, Bob Rogers, for example, Brittle's beaten opponent for the post of chairman, is an organiser of considerable ability.

There is also change afoot within the union's paid ranks, which need to be reinvigorated. Terry Burwell, rugby director at Newbury for the past six years, will become the first director of Twickenham Services in September, with responsibility for working with clubs on competitive structures, player registration and the like. Richard Prescott, late of Whitbread, the brewing company, will become the new director of communications: these are significant responsibilities that need firmer leadership than Twickenham has had over the past year because so many attentions have been diverted by the political struggle.

Indeed, the only credit that England can glean from recent events has been on the playing field and that reflects as much on the management style of Jack Rowell and his coaching colleagues, Mike Slemen and Les Cusworth, the country's leading players and their clubs as it does upon the RFU. Though embroiled in the political dispute, the top clubs have made distinct advances in fitness and playing style from which England and the British Isles have benefited.

They now have, in the English Rugby Partnership, a management body agreed with the RFU that must be given the chance to work. The England management will be reviewed by the national playing committee, under the chairmanship of Bill Beaumont, but, in a period of change, Rowell's record speaks for him: Cusworth is about to accept a paid position with Worcester that need not necessarily affect his preparation of England's backs, but what England need in the run-up to the 1999 World Cup is stability.

That is what Brittle, in concert with Peter Brook, as the union's president, has the chance to provide. English rugby is sick, to death of politics. What it now wants is statesmanship and that is a very different ball game.

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July 14 1997

CRICKET: YOUNGER HOLLIOAKE TAKES CENTRE STAGE DURING ONE-SIDED BENSON AND HEDGES CUP FINAL

# National treasure in need of polishing

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**LORD'S** (Kent won toss): Surrey beat Kent by eight wickets

THE innocuous talent of Ben Hollioake illuminated a one-day showpiece at Lord's for the second time this summer on Saturday. Given the abysmally one-sided nature of the Benson and Hedges Cup final, it was just as well.

Everyone, from agents upwards, will now want their share of this precocious teenager and Hollioake's match-winning 96 for Surrey against a woefully under-par Kent gave a timely focus to continuing arguments over the direction that his career should take. Popular demands will inevitably grow for his inclusion by England and Hollioake, who joins the national squad for a bonding session in Yorkshire next week, may yet make his Test debut before his twentieth birthday in November. His next international honour,

fifth over, which could have left Surrey 22 for two, but thereafter he was serene. Pinch-hitter or not, this was no merry slog, either.

He will regret the shot that dismissed him — indeed, he regretted it so much that he walked off to a standing ovation with his head hung low and his helmet still on — but, having instantly asserted control with a flurry of fours, he had responded to the mature guidance of Alec Stewart and played with judgment and sense.

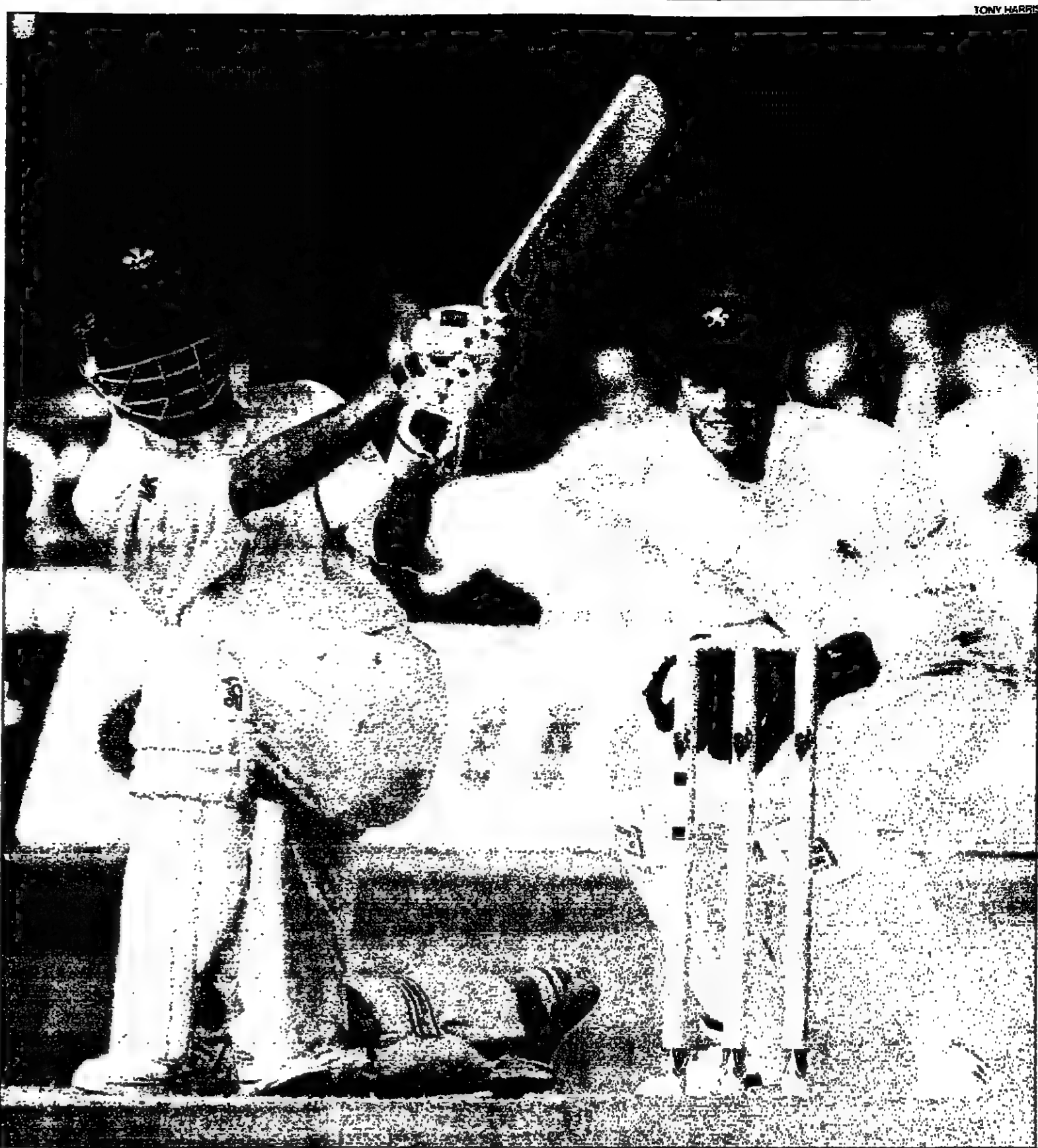
His defence is transparently flawed, his bat too often coming down crooked and late, which would be exposed as such in Test cricket, but minor adjustments can cure this shortcoming. When attacking, he stands erect, hitting the ball with a full flow of the arms, the full face of the bat and exquisite timing.

Anyone inclined to suspect Hollioake's dashing England debut in the one-day international against Australia on this ground might prove to be a freak has been silenced. "I think I'll come here again," he said afterwards in the mild, unaffected manner that, as his fame grows, he must seek to retain.

It should be stressed here that Hollioake had previously achieved little for Surrey this season and, up to now, the England selectors have been unarguably right in resisting the cries for his Test inclusion. This may soon change. Certainly, he will go on tour to West Indies this winter and he may be an England all-rounder for years to come. At this impressionable stage, it is crucial that his development is handled correctly.

My understanding is that his selection for the under-19s is an adherence to a commitment to pick the best, but that, through the wise advice of the England selectors, discretion will be applied. He is likely to play in the initial one-day games against Zimbabwe, which do not clash with Surrey's county championship fixtures, but may well be released from some later matches. That is the strong proposal of one England selector, Mike Gatting, and has the agreement of the chairman, David Graveney, who is at present on holiday in Spain.

Graveney watched the final on Saturday on television and, while stimulated by Hollioake's potential, will doubtless have gleaned reassurance from the batting of Stewart. This has been a sensitive time for Stewart, the worries over his wife's illness overriding all else, but it cannot be denied that his wicketkeeping was



Hollioake, who won the man-of-the-match award, exerts his authority over the Kent bowlers with another free-flowing stroke through the on side

Marsh: game-plan

however, will come, controversially, at a far lower level.

Tomorrow, the England Under-19 squad will be announced for four-day and limited-overs games against Zimbabwe next month and I understand that Hollioake will be included — despite the claims of Surrey, and many voices raised in support, that he would be better employed playing county cricket than in an age-group he has clearly outgrown.

In one sense, this is an extension of the eternal conflict between club and country, common to so many sports. In another, it is distinctly different, for the subject here is very young and exceptionally gifted — at his age, the most exciting English cricketer in many years.

Hollioake batted on Saturday as only the innocent can, utterly without fear or inhibition. It might have been a different game, a better contest, if he had been either caught or run-out in a heart-stopping moment during the

scruffy in the Old Trafford Test and no better on Saturday. Apart from some basic errors of alertness, he dropped a regulation catch, two-handed to his left.

For Kent, this was a bonus, for little else had gone their way. Steve Marsh was faithful to a game-plan when he chose to bat first, but the morning was clammy, the dew thick on the ground and the ball swung appreciably. Soon, with the assistance of two dubious leg-before decisions, Surrey had reduced them to 23 for three.

Without an Aravinda de Silva, whose brilliance took them so close against Lancashire two years ago, it was hard to divine a way back from there. The middle-order worthies, Long and Ealham, ensured respectability, but already there was the impression that Kent were sinking to a sixth consecutive defeat in Lord's knockout finals.

There was some decent Surrey bowling, notably from Ian Salisbury and Chris Lewis,

though, as usual, the latter overplayed his posturing, but it was clear that the pitch held no evils. Despite Marsh's supervision of the late overs, the total was inadequate. "We needed a minimum of 250," he said, "but to make it worse, we then didn't bowl enough balls in the right area."

They did not. McCague charged in, full of adrenalin and intent, and his fourth ball

Sunday league reports 34 Derbyshire turned 35

was curved by Ali Brown with ferocious force, Fleming, at point, took a reflex catch and, suddenly, Surrey's ability to self-destruct was the abiding theme.

Hollioake struck three disdainful fours before his leading edge spiralled agonisingly short of Ealham at mid-on. The ball ran loose to an infuriated McCague, who very nearly ran out the wandering batsman with his sav-

age throw. It was the defining moment of a deeply disappointing match.

Interest, thereafter, was divided between admiration of Hollioake's fluency and irritation at the constant malfunctioning of the main scoreboard, something that happens far too often for the good of MCC's reputation.

Hollioake fell two runs short of only the fifth century in a Benson and Hedges final, but, by then, the target was down to 53. Four years ago in this competition, Surrey managed to decline from 212 for one to 230 all out and lost to Lancashire by six runs. Stewart, now at his lordly best, and Thorpe combined to insure against a gruesome repetition.

After taking the Sunday league last September, this effectively means Surrey have won two successive one-day titles. It is also, however, almost certainly the end of their involvement in this year's honours and cannot camouflage the deeper, enduring problems at the Oval.

## SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

| KENT won toss    |  | SURREY           |  |
|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| M V Fleming      | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | A D Brown        | 4 (2m, 4 balls)  |
| M J Walker       | 8 (12m, 12 balls, 100)   | TA J Stewart     | 75 (178m, 125 balls, 100)  |
| TR Ward          | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | B C Hollioake    | 98 (126m, 112 balls, 100)  |
| AP Wells         | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | G P Thorpe       | 17 (49m, 35 balls)   |
| N J Long         | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | Extras           | 23 (10m, 35 balls)   |
| M A Ealham       | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | Total            | 215 (2 wickets, 45 overs, 179m)  |
| GR Cowdrey       | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | FALL OF WICKETS: | 1-2 (Stewart 0, 2-181 (Stewart 45))  |
| PA Stringer      | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | BOWLING:         | McCague 8-0-45-1 (w 1: 70m, 3-0-19-1, 2-0-10-0, 3-0-16-0, 4-0-21-0, 5-0-24-0, 6-0-24-0, 7-0-24-0, 8-0-24-0, 9-0-24-0, 10-0-24-0, 11-0-24-0, 12-0-24-0, 13-0-24-0, 14-0-24-0, 15-0-24-0, 16-0-24-0, 17-0-24-0, 18-0-24-0, 19-0-24-0, 20-0-24-0) |
| *B A Marsh       | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | Match award:     | S C Hollioake (Adjudicator M A Ashcroft)   |
| M J McCague      | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | Umpires:         | G Sharp and D R Shepherd   |
| D W Headley      | 106 (147m, 7 balls, 100)   | Third umpire:    | J W Holder   |
| Extras           | 23 (10m, 35 balls)   | Compiled by      | Bill Fendall   |
| Total            | 212 (9 wickets, 50 overs, 204m)  |                  |  |
| FALL OF WICKETS: | 1-15 (Fleming 7, 2-15 (Ward 0, 3-22 (Ward 0, 4-26 (Long 18), 5-106 (Ealham 13), 6-135 (Ealham 26), 7-170 (Ealham 40), 8-184 (Marsh 10), 9-198 (Marsh 14))  |                  |  |
| BOWLING:         | McCague 8-0-33-2 (w 1: 65m, 4-0-11-0, 5-0-11-0, 6-0-11-0, 7-0-11-0, 8-0-11-0, 9-0-11-0, 10-0-11-0, 11-0-11-0, 12-0-11-0, 13-0-11-0, 14-0-11-0, 15-0-11-0, 16-0-11-0, 17-0-11-0, 18-0-11-0, 19-0-11-0, 20-0-11-0) |                  |  |
| A J Hollioake    | 7-0-31-1 (w 2: 30m, 4-0-13-1, 5-0-13-1, 6-0-13-1, 7-0-13-1, 8-0-13-1, 9-0-13-1, 10-0-13-1, 11-0-13-1, 12-0-13-1, 13-0-13-1, 14-0-13-1, 15-0-13-1, 16-0-13-1, 17-0-13-1, 18-0-13-1, 19-0-13-1, 20-0-13-1)         |                  |  |
| B C Hollioake    | 6-0-28-0 (w 2: 30m, 4-0-12-0, 5-0-12-0, 6-0-12-0, 7-0-12-0, 8-0-12-0, 9-0-12-0, 10-0-12-0, 11-0-12-0, 12-0-12-0, 13-0-12-0, 14-0-12-0, 15-0-12-0, 16-0-12-0, 17-0-12-0, 18-0-12-0, 19-0-12-0, 20-0-12-0)         |                  |  |
| Saqlain          | 9-1-33-2 (w 1: 20m, 6-1-11-0, 7-0-11-0, 8-0-11-0, 9-0-11-0, 10-0-11-0, 11-0-11-0, 12-0-11-0, 13-0-11-0, 14-0-11-0, 15-0-11-0, 16-0-11-0, 17-0-11-0, 18-0-11-0, 19-0-11-0, 20-0-11-0)                             |                  |  |

## Kent take fright as Surrey pick fight

Michael Henderson finds little to impress during a disappointing cup final at Lord's on Saturday



Lewis's behaviour was described as "obnoxious" by one spectator

After an immensely disappointing Benson and Hedges Cup final, all the more disappointing for the clamorous fanfare that preceded it, some questions arise. 1) Are Kent the great "bottlers"? 2) Why are Surrey so unpopular? 3) How good is Hollioake minor? 4) Is Chris Lewis sound of mind?

The answers are yes, because they behave like spoilt brats; good, but not quite the reincarnation of Victor Trumper; send for a doctor. First, Kent. When Steve Marsh, their captain, was asked after the match whether they had bottled it, he said: "People may say we did, but we just did not compete." In a word, yes. Winning cup finals is all about "competing" on the big stage and, for the second time in three years, Kent took fright.

In the Benson and Hedges Cup final two years ago, they won the toss against Lancashire, decided they would rather not face Wasim Akram on a sultry morning and were unable to support Aravinda de Silva when it was their turn to bat. This time, they won the toss and were stuffed up before lunch. They have very good players, but they do not know, yet, how to handle the big occasion.

Their performance was a shame, not least because few people beyond Kemington wanted Surrey to prevail. It is fair to say that, among players and umpires, Surrey are not just not liked, they are disliked. The general perception, fairly or unfairly, is of a gang of noisy, self-regarding children.

Not all of them should be damned so — Alec Stewart is admired as a pro's pro and has a record that demands respect — but too many are seen as "actors", moreover ones who do not always remember their lines.

It is not without significance that Stewart gave up the club captaincy at the end of last year. Perhaps, in part, he had had enough of trying to keep in order a team that made enemies on the field by saying too much and achieving too little.

Something is out of kilter at the Oval. Half of the side is represented by Gareth James, one of the new breed of agents, who turned up on the dressing-room balcony last year, when Surrey won the Sunday league, to join in the celebrations!

Since when did agents contribute to anything that happens on the field of play? What was a mere agent doing in the dressing-room in the first place?

Brian Clough had a straightforward message to these people when he discussed matters with his players at Nottingham Forest. The manager's message went something like: "The door is over there and you can get the other side of it." The time may have come for cricket clubs to follow his example, for James has made no secret of his ambitions, which, on this evidence, clearly do not include the grooming of his clients.

The behaviour of the Surrey players on the balcony at Lord's bore the mark of young men who have been indulged too often. Lewis and Mark Butcher came on swigging champagne, the surest sign of the true vulgarian, and Butcher was shouting at friends below when the umpires went up to collect their own medals. It was not a pretty spectacle.

As for Lewis, what is there new to say? He was at his worst on Saturday, strutting back to his mark like a gangster in a Chicago alley, following through unnecessarily to within a cock-stride of the batsman, over-reacting absurdly when he took a wicket and turning up later with his trademark idiosyncrasy, the cap worn back to front.

His conduct after taking Fleming's wicket was so excessive that, had there been a match referee, as they have in the Tests, he might well have requested a psychiatric report. At the end of that over, Lewis punched the air like a man in a frenzy. An MCC member, who was once the chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, spoke for many when he said: "I have never seen anything so obnoxious in my life."

Lewis's problem is that he is not actually... ah, does it really matter? Does anybody care? He has had enough chances to establish himself as a front-rank player and has not come close.

To fulfil his obvious potential, Ben Hollioake would do well to heed the lessons of this sad story. There are some rough edges to refine, but one thing is clear: the lad can play.

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RACING: KING OF KINGS LOSES UNBEATEN RECORD ON DAY OF DISAPPOINTING FAVOURITES

## Ebadiyla confirms home advantage

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH AT THE CURRAGH

AFTER years of equine imperialism, home rule is once again being asserted on the Irish turf. Ebadiyla yesterday made it four out of four domestic wins in the season's Irish classics when seeing off the British-trained favourite, Yashmak, in the Kildangan Stud Irish Oaks at the Curragh.

However, the locals were discouraged from excessive delusions of grandeur when King Of Kings, that loudest of talking horses, met his first defeat on the same card.

Yashmak had run fourth in the Oaks at Epsom, where Ebadiyla was sixth. But the Aga Khan's filly was having only her third start that day, and proved naive in a rough race. This time, enjoying the services of a pacemaker, Aliya, she was produced two furlongs out by John Murtagh — riding his first classic winner — to gallop three lengths clear of Yashmak.

Henry Cecil, the latter's trainer, reported that his Ribblesdale Stakes winner had lost a shoe and would have preferred more rain, but refused to offer excuses for defeat by an improving filly.

John Oxx, the winning trainer, said: "Epsom was a bit of a mess; she didn't act on the track. It was a rough contest and we made too much

use of her. My horses had been down with the flu, too, but she has been in much better form recently, and may now go to the Yorkshire Oaks."

King Of Kings had been dethroned from his dominion over the juveniles — who, after all, have barely shown their hand — when narrowly denied in the Omni Racing Anglesey Stakes. Ladbrokes

## BIG-RACE DETAILS

4.30 KILDANGAN STUD IRISH OAKS (Group 1, 3-Y-O fillies, 12.700, 1m 4f)  
1. EBADIYLA (J Murtagh 9-2) 2. Yashmak (H Cecil 8-4) 3. Brilliant (S Gifford 5-1) 4. ALSO RAN 5. Strawberry (Rohan 10-1) 6. Elme (Roh 25) 7. Calais (Roh 25) 8. Alibi (Roh 25) 9. Family Tradition (Roh 25) 10. Shag Gaffer (V Verano 10-1) 11. n. n. 12. n. n. 13. n. n. 14. n. n. 15. n. n. 16. n. n. 17. n. n. 18. n. n. 19. n. n. 20. n. n. 21. n. n. 22. n. n. 23. n. n. 24. n. n. 25. n. n. 26. n. n. 27. n. n. 28. n. n. 29. n. n. 30. n. n. 31. n. n. 32. n. n. 33. n. n. 34. n. n. 35. n. n. 36. n. n. 37. n. n. 38. n. n. 39. n. n. 40. n. n. 41. n. n. 42. n. n. 43. n. n. 44. n. n. 45. n. n. 46. n. n. 47. n. n. 48. n. n. 49. n. n. 50. n. n. 51. n. n. 52. n. n. 53. n. n. 54. n. n. 55. n. n. 56. n. n. 57. n. n. 58. n. n. 59. n. n. 60. n. n. 61. n. n. 62. n. n. 63. n. n. 64. n. n. 65. n. n. 66. n. n. 67. n. n. 68. n. n. 69. n. n. 70. n. n. 71. n. n. 72. n. n. 73. n. n. 74. n. n. 75. n. n. 76. n. n. 77. n. n. 78. n. n. 79. n. n. 80. n. n. 81. n. n. 82. n. n. 83. n. n. 84. n. n. 85. n. n. 86. n. n. 87. n. n. 88. n. n. 89. n. n. 90. n. n. 91. n. n. 92. n. n. 93. n. n. 94. n. n. 95. n. n. 96. n. n. 97. n. n. 98. n. n. 99. n. n. 100. n. n. 101. n. n. 102. n. n. 103. n. n. 104. n. n. 105. n. n. 106. n. n. 107. 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TENNIS: YOUNG HOPEFULS QUICK TO CAPITALISE ON THE POST-WIMBLEDON 'FEEL-GOOD' FACTOR

# Barnes ready for brave new world

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE euphoria created by the exploits of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski at Wimbledon is giving tennis almost a surfeit of the "feel-good" factor. Nowhere is this more important than among the young, probably ensuring that tennis will become a significant growth sport in Britain in the next decade.

This new enthusiasm is evident at the established centres of tennis. Ian Barclay, the director of the Lawn Tennis Association's boys elite squad at Bisham Abbey, said that the Wimbledon performances "have enthused all the younger ones to do better — they see that goals can be attained".

His view is echoed by Adrian Barnes, who last week led Repton to their eleventh victory in 16 years in the Glanvill Cup, played on the 12 clay courts of Queenswood School, Herefordshire. These national championships are attracting record entries from a schools membership that is now numbered

an exceptional as a junior. Barnes himself reached the third round of the junior singles at Wimbledon this year. In the doubles, he met his partner, Ivanov Smolenski, of Russia, for the first time when they began their first-round match, yet they went on to reach the semi-finals.

The Glanvill Cup final was a repeat of 1996. Repton met Cheam HS, who were seeking to become the first state school to win the title in the 53 years of the competition. Repton had beaten Sevenoaks 5-1 in one semi-final, while Cheam edged out Millfield in the other by virtue of a count-back of games after the number of matches and sets were equal.

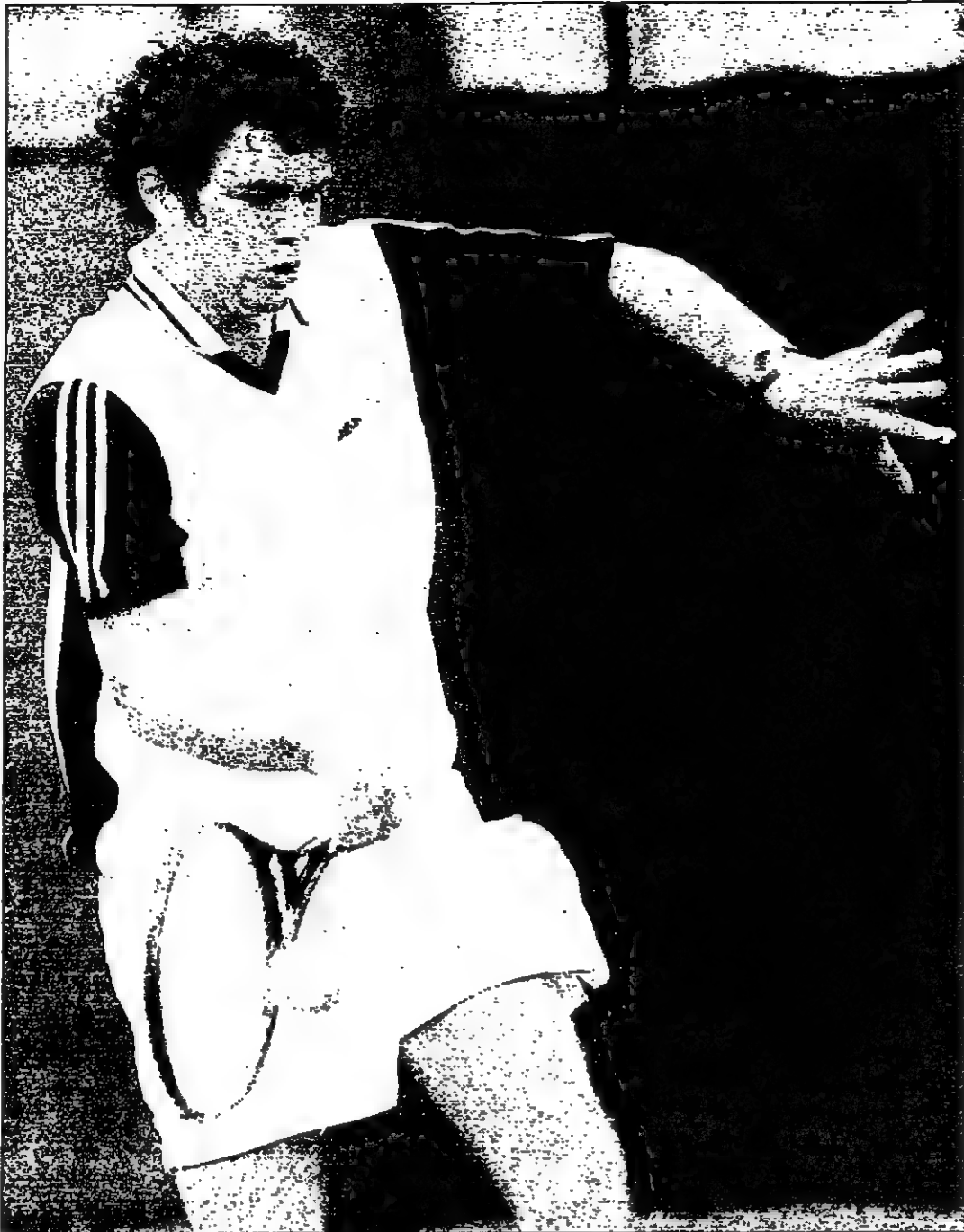
In another echo of last year, the score in the final was level at 2-2 after the four singles matches, with Barnes defeating Adrian Williams 6-3, 6-3 in the top singles.

Williams, from Cornwall, is one of 26 pupils on scholarships at Cheam, which is linked with the Sutton Junior Tennis Centre. The pupils, who live under supervision in four houses in the centre, are taken to the centre four times a day for coaching and practice. In a further "action replay", each school won one doubles match, but Repton had conceded fewer sets and so retained the title.

Both schools will lose two of their four-strong team next year, with Barnes going to the University of California at Berkeley on a tennis scholarship. He received an academic scholarship to Repton in English, has taken maths, physics and chemistry at A level, but will major in economics in the United States.

Much of his time will be spent with the university's squad, practising and travelling for competitions. He is uncertain about his ultimate future in the game. "It would be unwise to say I would like to be a professional. They train so hard. However, I will have to make a decision eventually." Roger Thompson, the man who has inspired Repton's recent success at tennis, said: "Barnes is the best player in my time. He has a big serve and can hit aggressively on both wings. He is also bright and so knows what is going on out there on court."

Repton's domination of the event has become almost a drug for him. "The more times we win, the more I want us to win. I understand how Steffi Graf must feel and how



Barnes drives a typically fierce forehand during his victory over Williams in the Glanvill Cup

successful players want to go on and on."

**FINAL POSITIONS:** Glanvill Cup (boys): 1. Repton, 2. Cheam HS, 3. Millfield, 4. Sevenoaks. Alderley Cup (girls): 1. Central Newcastle, 2. Millfield, 3. Folkestone, 4. Queenswood.

Richard Mason, 14, of Eskdale School, Whitby, has won first prize in BBC Radio 5 Live's Passion for

Sport competition. More than a thousand entries were received in a nationwide event in which enthusiasm for sport, rather than personal proficiency, determined the winner. The £1,500 prize-money will be spent on a "wall" for rebound practice or a tennis machine.

One of the judges, Sarah Hardcastle, the Olympic swimming medal-winner, said: "He was incredibly bubbly, but his enthusiasm was not forced. He comes from a little village and has to travel up to 50 miles to take part in a variety of sports. That shows real dedication."

## Spirits soar as we head for home

James Capstick looks forward to life after *Ocean Rover* as Southampton, and the end of a Challenge, beckon



Within 24 hours of *Ocean Rover* finishing the penultimate leg of the BT Global Challenge, from Cape Town to Boston, I was on a plane heading home to England and my wife. It is quite hard now to remember exactly how I felt on arrival in Boston, except that I was very disappointed with our twelfth place and, to be honest, I had had enough of the boat and the crew. In many ways, this was a leg too far for me. The last race should have gone straight to Southampton from Cape Town.

I am sure that many of the others on board felt the same about me and getting away seemed the only thing to do. It is strange to think that we, as a crew, had sailed around the world through the worst conditions imaginable, but that it took a six-week sunny downwind leg to put me into an all-time low.

The Southern Ocean legs are often merely a question of survival; you are so tired that you simply stand your watch then try to sleep. The leg to Boston, however, had left me, at any rate, with too much time to think. As I sat on the plane, I had already decided that I would not return for the last leg: I had sailed around the world, having crossed my outgoing track north of the Equator, and had nothing left to prove to myself.

I was very mindful of the fact that I was not exactly known for my patience and tolerance. I was making mountains out of molehills on the boat and the most insignificant incident would make me angry. I felt it would be better all round if I simply walked away from it.

My arrival home, I knew, would be a nice surprise for my family. I had not told them I was coming, in part because, having spoken to my wife, Tracey, on the radio-telephone from the boat, she would have known what was going through my mind and was quite capable of cancelling my credit cards to prevent me from doing exactly what I intended.

It was great to see the family

again and, for the first two days, Tracey let me bang on and feel sorry for myself until she thought I had done enough. Then she told me my fortune in no uncertain terms. The general theme was that, "if you think you're going to back out now after all the sacrifices we have made over the past four years... needless to say, ten days later I was on another plane back to Boston ready to race to Southampton and finish the Challenge."

As I write, I am sitting on *Ocean Rover* heading across "the pond" towards the end. The morale on the boat is high, as you would expect, and, despite the light winds and our ninth position, the boat is bubbling with talk of home. Plans are being made and, for the first time, talk centres on "post-Challenge" subjects.

Some of the crew will simply fall in where they left off, while others will have to face job seeking and bank managers. Our immediate arrival will be celebrated on Friday July 18 with a huge party and family day in Ocean Village for all the crews.

I just hope that all the boats are in because, due to the fickle winds, there is a real possibility that some will still be at sea and I, for one, would not feel comfortable attending a welcome-home party with some of the guests not present. As an old sergeant used to say to me, "I counted them out and I counted them in". I'm sure that Sir Chay Blyth knows this concept better than most.

For me, arriving home means about a month off before I return to the Metropolitan Police mounted branch, something that I am looking forward to and feel refreshed and ready for after a year away. The only drawback will be that I will have to get my hair cut and lose my ear-ring, the traditional sailor's way of celebrating "rounding the Horn". Oh, I almost forgot — while away, Tracey has arranged for us to move house and, having seen it and the work that needs to be done, I think my next challenge has already been chosen for me.

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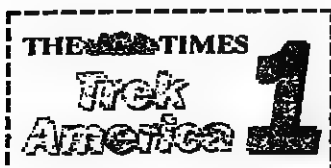
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CHANGING TIMES

هناك منة الأصل







## Capitalisation, week's change

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| Est. No.                | Company       | Price | Qty | Unit | %      | Est. No.          | Company  | Price | Qty | Unit | %  |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------|-----|------|--------|-------------------|----------|-------|-----|------|----|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES     |               |       |     |      |        |                   |          |       |     |      |    |
| 4059 30                 | Mild Beer     | 429   | 4   | 13   | 69 115 | 1827 30           | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 320 80                  | Medium Beer   | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 320 80                  | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 3614 20                 | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 1228 30                 | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 71 480 30               | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 215 50                  | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 51 30 80                | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
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| BANKS                   |               |       |     |      |        |                   |          |       |     |      |    |
| 151 30 80               | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 12 46 80                | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 3614 20                 | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
| 1228 30                 | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
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| BREWERIES, PUBS & REST  |               |       |     |      |        |                   |          |       |     |      |    |
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| DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS |               |       |     |      |        |                   |          |       |     |      |    |
| 151 30 80               | Domestic Beer | 475   | 2   | 16   | 181    | 720 80            | Domestic | 438   | 3   | 22   | 24 |
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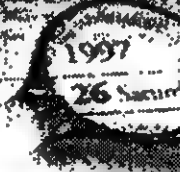
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This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and dark smudges or ink marks near the top left and bottom left corners. A vertical crease runs down the center of the page, and the right edge is slightly irregular. There is no text or other markings on the page.

منه الأصل



# CCA chief plans £70m growth of leisure venues

By DOMINIC WALSH

CCA Holdings, the Hong Kong owner of Brockton Hall and the London Capital Club, has earmarked £70 million for the acquisition of up to four new properties in the South of England.

Dietmar Klostermann, the company's German-born chairman, said he was looking at a number of private houses within about an hour of London and was in talks for a site for a second London club by the end of the year.

Mr Klostermann said: "Our aim initially is to have six properties, including two more that are similar to Brockton, with golf and conference facilities."

CCA, which was founded by Mr Klostermann in 1980 to develop and operate private clubs, bought a 50-year lease on Brockton Hall last summer for almost £10 million.

The Hertfordshire stately home was developed as an exclusive conference and golf venue by Lord Brockton, but the business collapsed in the recession. It was the peer's attempt to extricate himself from these financial difficulties that led to a botched car insurance scam and a five-year prison sentence.

Mr Klostermann, who owns

100 per cent of CCA, is investing a further £15 million over three years. The 500-acre estate's former coaching house has just been converted into 16 luxury suites and by the end of this year the main house will have been completely refurbished. Future developments will add a second championship golf course and driving range, and a country club and health spa.

Strictly speaking, the property reverts to the Brockton family trusts after the 60-year lease expires, but Mr Klostermann said he hoped an extension or management con-

tract could be negotiated. There are no such problems at the London Capital Club, formerly the Gresham, which was acquired freehold in 1993. CCA has invested a total of £5 million, including acquisition costs, and the club is now turning over £2.4 million. Its 1,000 members pay an average subscription of £120.

Mr Klostermann is negotiating for a site for an upmarket leisure-based club in the West End of London. CCA is also growing apace in its Asia-Pacific heartland, where all 28 of its other clubs are located. It has eight further projects under construction in the region, but is also casting its eye over opportunities in Frankfurt, Berlin, Moscow, Paris, Brussels, Milan and Madrid.

The company's current mix of golf, athletic and city clubs has a turnover of more than US\$200 million (£119 million) but there are no plans for a stock market flotation.

"We don't need to go public," said Mr Klostermann. "We sell £2 million of membership sales each week, so we're a very comfortable cashflow. We've never lost a project through lack of financing."



Klostermann: more clubs



A team from Orange PCS, the Bristol-based mobile network operator, cycled, canoeed and ran their way to victory over 56 other teams to win the Miel Challengers Trophy, Europe's largest inter-business competition

## ICI denies DuPont 'speculation'

By FRASER NELSON

ICI, Britain's largest chemicals group, has confirmed that it is prepared to sell some industrial chemicals assets to a rival, but dismissed weekend reports of a £2 billion deal with DuPont, its American rival, as "speculation".

ICI, Britain's largest chemicals group, has confirmed that it is prepared to sell some industrial chemicals assets to a rival, but dismissed weekend reports of a £2 billion deal with DuPont, its American rival, as "speculation".

Although the company has been grooming Trioxide, its titanium dioxide business, for flotation as an independent company it said it has no qualms about selling it to a rival.

A spokesman said: "We have planned to float Trioxide as a separate entity. We have never ruled out the possibility of a trade sale."

"We bought the Unilever speciality business in a £5 billion deal that was completed last week... we have to pay some money back quickly and so we have to look at disposals. That is the picture."

A successful deal would vindicate ICI's ambitious reform programme set in place by Charles Miller Smith, its

chief executive. He planned to retreat from the volatile bulk chemicals market and increase its exposure to more refined chemicals. He has already confirmed his aim of raising £3 billion through disposals to help to pay for the Unilever acquisition. The deal would also provide DuPont with a significant presence in Europe.

## Seven line up for a summer listing

By FRASER NELSON

THE post-election flotation season sees seven companies joining the Alternative Investment Market this month alone.

Pycraft & Arnold, a London chartered loss adjuster, plans to list on Wednesday with a market value of £10 million. It is raising £2 million to pay for acquisition plans.

Ciadet Holdings, a French start-up company hoping to invest in commercial properties, is joining AIM next week, looking to raise £227 million to buy offices in France before a recovery sets in. It will be valued at about £30 million and has been created by the Moristep family of Sweden around Lyons property interests.

JSB, a software company that postponed its flotation last August, is hoping to complete its placing this month. It has designed Surf Control, a device that restricts Internet access for office workers. It hopes to raise £5 million to take its product to America, where it has close links with Novell, the software house.

Deleam, a Birmingham business software house, is hoping to be valued at £15 million this month, eight years after a management flotation for £2 million from Delta. Hugh Humphries, its chief executive, will become a paper millionaire.

Landround, which supplies travel-based promotions, has reduced its original asking price to ensure a flotation this month. It is now heading for a market value of £5 million.

David Best, who helped bring PolyMASC to AIM two years ago, is now bringing Bioscience Innovation Centre to the market. The Cambridge company hopes to raise £6 million to provide laboratory facilities and management consultancy services.

## WH Smith seeks loyalty card lift

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

WH SMITH, the troubled high street retailer battling against renewed bid rumours, is to launch its own loyalty card this week in the hope of boosting sales.

The WH Smith Clubcard will offer a 2 per cent discount to customers and will be available in shops across the 400-strong chain from Wednesday.

The company's shares, which fell to a year low of 333p on Thursday, bounced 8p on Friday as speculation grew of a possible takeover bid. Asda, the supermarket group, is thought to be in the frame, along with Kingfisher and Boots.

Smiths, which has been struggling to re-establish itself in its key markets, is looking for a replacement for Bill Cockburn, its chief executive,

who announced last month that he will be leaving after just 18 months in the job.

The main internal candidates are Alan Giles, head of Waterstones, Keith Hamill, finance director, Richard Handover, managing director for news, and John Hancock, director for US operations. Spencer Stuart, the headhunters, is looking for outside candidates. It is keen to talk to Stuart Rose, who resigned last week from Burton, where he ran the main fashion chains.

The loyalty card is being launched after a trial in 53 stores in the Midlands and the North East. Liz Harlow, who is running the card scheme, said it "significantly increased sales and we are confident that the success of this regional trial will be repeated at a national level".

## Supermarkets tune in to television shopping

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHOPPERS could soon be able to buy Sainsbury and Safeway groceries through their televisions.

The Sainsbury chain said last week that it is in talks with British Interactive Broadcasting about offering its 20,000 grocery lines through BIB interactive TV, which is due to be launched next year.

J Sainsbury, a member of the working group that has spent the last year developing content for the BIB service, is also likely to sign up as a participant. The full range of retail services, including home banking, is likely to be available on BIB from 1999.

Roger Partington, marketing director of Safeway, said that he will meet BIB for further talks this week. Chris Townsend, operations director



Partington: home deliveries

of BIB, hopes to secure the first firm signings within the next two months. The company aims to have 30 retail, travel and financial services companies lined up for the launch, and to have 300 on board within five years.

## Prescott to unveil strategy on water leakage

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to announce deep cuts in water leakage rates tomorrow.

Mandatory long-term programmes have been agreed by privatised suppliers since the water summit in May.

Privatised water and sewage groups have also agreed to seek out leaks in customers' pipes as well as making repairs free, at least for a period.

Companies that have already experimented with free leakage repairs have found that the relatively modest amount of pipe-work between company mains and customers' premises is a rich area for leaks that are relatively cheap to stop, creating unexpected enthusiasm for the project.

This has allowed mandatory leakage reduction targets to be more impressive than expected before the summit.

But companies have stopped short of taking full legal responsibility for customers' pipes, for fear that they might face huge bills for replacing lead and other unsuitable materials.

The industry is now trying to develop different tariff systems that will allow much wider use of meters without penalising larger ordinary families in low-rated properties for the benefit of millionaires in penthouses.

Labour has turned its back on compulsory metering because it would be regressive in effect and might yet again raise the Government's welfare bill.

Possibilities include allowing a substantial "free" allocation of water for a low standing charge and then making heavy unit charges on higher users.

Mr Prescott might be more persuaded by a scheme that linked standing charges to council tax bands, including discounts, and then imposed a more affordable unit charge for extra water.

Mr Prescott is also likely to unveil more ambitious programmes to help customers to save water through water "audits".

| ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET |     |                    |                |     |     |      |      |     |                       |           |     |     |      |  |  |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------|----------------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----------------------|-----------|-----|-----|------|--|--|
| 1997                          |     | Mid cap (millions) | Price          | Wtd | Yld | P/E  | 1997 |     | Mid cap (millions)    | Price     | Wtd | Yld | P/E  |  |  |
| High                          | Low |                    | per share      | +   | %   |      | High | Low |                       | per share | +   | %   |      |  |  |
| 139                           | 100 | 118                | AFB Systems    | 117 |     |      | 184  | 150 | 5.87 TIB Group        | 151       |     |     |      |  |  |
| 150                           | 131 | 151                | 15.00 AMCO Inc | 117 |     | 5.5  | 150  | 110 | 5.77 Jernigan Int Inc | 149       |     |     | 40.9 |  |  |
| 422                           | 100 | 57.50              | AMCO Int Fed   | 120 | -10 | 10.0 | 111  | 82  | 4.91 Jernigan         | 110       |     |     | 10   |  |  |
| 119                           | 89  | 7.32               | Alcora Health  | 117 | -2  | 0.6  | 241  | 290 | 26.30 Jernigan Bros   | 50        | -1  | 2.8 | 22.3 |  |  |
| 100                           | 20  | 27.50              | Accura         | 117 |     | 21.5 | 84   | 50  | 10.10 Jernigan        | 50        |     |     | 16.1 |  |  |
| 111                           | 91  | 2.00               | Adco Energy    | 117 |     | 82   | 50   | 3   | 8.42 Jernigan         | 50        |     |     |      |  |  |
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## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interim: Lorient, Olin Convertible Trust, Final: Ashted Group, Barling Emerging, Cavaghan & Gray, Ellis & Everard, Economic statistics: UK June CPI, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

## TOMORROW

Interim: Inn Business Group, Winttrust, Final: Alm Group, Anie, Barling Emerging Europe Trust, Dany Crest, Kenwood Appliances, Moorgate Investment Trust, Shield Diagnostics, TIG, Trilast, VHE Holdings, Zengo Group. Economic statistics: UK June BRC retail sales monitor, Italy May PPI, WPI Bundesbank calls for repos, Bundesbank calls for bids on six-month bills, BoF money market tender, BoF discount T-bill auction, US June retail sales, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, AFI weekly oil supply statistics.

## WEDNESDAY

Interim: Allied Textile Cos, Medeva, Microgen Holdings, Rights & Issues, Scottish American Investment Com, Final: Bulmer Holdings, First Technology, David S Smith, Economic statistics: UK June jobsless, May average earnings, unit wage costs, UK June PSBR, US June CPI, US May business inventories, US June industrial output, capacity utilisation, Treasury announces size of two-year and five-year treasury notes, Bundesbank awards repos, Bundesbank awards six-month bills, Italy May industrial output.

## THURSDAY

Interim: Aberforth Smaller Co, Greenwich Resources, Final: Hi-Tec Sports, Somerset, Stanley Leisure, Economic statistics: US weekly jobless claims, OECD employment outlook, US Treasury auction of six-week T-bills, BoF annual coupon T-bill tender, BoF monetary policy council meeting.

## FRIDAY

Interim: none scheduled, Final: Callina, Economic statistics: UK June provisional M4 final M3, UK BBA June bank lending, UK Building Societies Association June lending, UK June car production.

## TOURIST RATES

|                 | Bank   | Bank   |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
|                 | Buy    | Sell   |
| Australia \$    | 2.28   | 2.30   |
| Austria S       | 22.54  | 22.58  |
| Belgium F       | 64.96  | 65.00  |
| Canada \$       | 2.448  | 2.452  |
| Cyprus C        | 0.025  | 0.025  |
| Denmark Kr      | 11.98  | 11.99  |
| Finland Mk      | 5.41   | 5.42   |
| France F        | 16.87  | 16.88  |
| Germany DM      | 3.15   | 3.15   |
| Greece Dr       | 486    | 487    |
| Hong Kong \$    | 12.80  | 12.81  |
| Iceland         | 127    | 127    |
| Ireland P       | 1.17   | 1.18   |
| Israel Sh       | 20.88  | 20.90  |
| Italy Lira      | 2063   | 2064   |
| Japan Yen       | 107.68 | 107.70 |
| Malta           | 0.688  | 0.689  |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.659  | 3.660  |
| New Zealand \$  | 2.89   | 2.90   |
| Norway Kr       | 15.13  | 15.14  |
| Portugal Esc    | 314.08 | 314.10 |
| Spain Ptas      | 166.64 | 166.66 |
| Sweden Kr       | 8.48   | 8.49   |
| Switzerland F   | 2.02   | 2.03   |
| Taiwan N        | 282.79 | 282.80 |
| Turkey Lira     | 13.08  | 13.09  |
| USA \$          | 1.92   | 1.93   |
| USA \$          | 282.79 | 282.80 |
| USA \$          | 1.92   | 1.93   |

Bank rates as at close of trading on Friday. Bank rates as at close of trading on Friday.

## COMPANIES

## CLARE STEWART

## Strife casts cloud over BA results



Robert Ayling of BA. Analysts estimate strike action is costing at least £15 million a day

**BRITISH AIRWAYS:** Industrial strife will overshadow tomorrow's annual meeting at the Barbican Centre in London, but it is still too early to assess the full impact on 1997 revenues.

Analysts estimate that strike action is costing BA between £15 million and £20 million a day — perhaps £50 million or more in lost bookings for last week alone — but they think that the share price will remain stable unless industrial action escalates or becomes protracted.

The carrier, whose chief executive is Robert Ayling, lost an estimated £15 million in bookings ahead of last year's threatened strike by pilots, which was called off at the last minute. Analysts are keeping an open mind on the final cost to BA's revenues, but think reports that the action has cost BA £200 million so far are wide of the mark.

Before the onset of industrial action, analysts were looking for a 1997 pre-tax profit of £715 million (£640 million) on turnover of £8.97 billion (£8.34 billion). The carrier is seeking to find £1 billion in annual cost savings by 2000 in order to remain competitive.

**SOMERFIELD:** The food retailer, formerly the Gateway group, reports year-end figures on Thursday — its first pre-tax since floating.

Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits of £103 million, up from £83.2 million last year. The dividend is expected to come in at just over 10p, with earnings per share of 28.3p.

The focus of interest will be on improvements in costs and margins rather than looking for startling sales growth.

Like for like sales growth is expected to be in line with the industry average, though overall sales figures will reflect both continuing deflation and the slower sales at Somerfield's discount chain Food Giant.

Somerfield floated last August at 145p, with a bumpy pre-listing ride followed by a less than sparkling growth in its share price. Some of the recent cheer buoying the food retailing sector has helped to lift Somerfield, which last week topped 190p, to reach a new high for the group.

**MEDEVA:** Acquisition gains are expected to make much of the running when the drugs com-

pany reports first-half results on Wednesday. The group which last year bought Rochester, Fison's US business, is expected to see pre-tax profits of £44-million to £50 million, as against £37.2 million in 1996.

Analysts at Lehman Brothers are forecasting underlying sales growth of 5 per cent and 31 per cent of acquisition gains but are also expecting about 3 per cent of exchange losses. The strength of sterling has prompted a slight downgrade for the full year, to around £119 million pre-tax.

Shares in Medeva have been rattled by slow sales of its anti-obesity drug Ionamin, and analysts will be looking for further news on this and key products such as Methyphenidate prescribed for hyperactive children.

**HI-TEC SPORTS:** The hiking and sports shoe group reports year-end figures on Thursday with house brokers Greig Middleton forecasting pre-tax profits of £3 million, up from £2.03 million last year. A resumption of dividend payments is expected, with 0.5p pencilled in.

Much of the interest will centre on the group's progress in North America, and the success of its Bootlogic initiative to introduce new styles in its Outdoor boot range. There may also be an update on Hi-Tec's tie-up with Sports Division, the Scottish retailer.

Earnings of 3.6p are forecast this year, rising to 5p in 1998.

**STANLEY LEISURE:** The gaming group headed by Leonard

Steinberg is watching with interest the outcome of Brent Walker's William Hill betting shop sell-off. If, as expected, Bass takes a punt, it is not inconceivable that the MMC will demand some divestments. You can bet that Stanley Leisure will seek to vacuum up any cast-offs.

Betting shops will be the star of Stanley's full-time results on Thursday, as the first real fruits of the change in gaming laws allowing AWP's into betting shops kick in. Analysts expect a ten-month contribution from AWP's to put an extra £1.5 million on the bottom line.

The group's betting-shop business, boosted by the acquisition of Gus Carter last summer, turned in a strong first-half performance and this is thought to have

continued through the second half. The comparison will be all the more marked given the large number of cancelled race meetings in the winter of 1995. The lottery-style 49's game continues to be a boon.

Aided by a solid if unspectacular improvement from casinos, group pre-tax profits are likely to come in at £19.3 million, up from £14.8 million, with earnings per share up from 9.3p to at least 11.0p. The dividend will rise from 3.33p to 4p.

**ANITE GROUP:** The former Cray Electronics reports tomorrow. The former stock market high-flyer, which came to earth with a thud after a series of profits warnings, a Stock Exchange investigation and a boardroom shakeup, has now refocused on systems and networks, moving away from communications manufacture.

In spite of its recent history it is not without supporters among analysts who rate its recovery potential given the buoyancy of its sector.

Year-end losses are forecast to increase to £34.6 million against £19.4 million last year, but the group is expected to be comfortably back in the black in 1997-8.

**TIG:** The industrial lighting group is expected to take a dim view of conditions in European markets when it reports year-end figures tomorrow.

The former Thorn Lighting Group is expected to see pre-tax profits for the year to March slip from £28.6 million to £20 million. Closure of factories will help to cut costs though the benefits are not expected in the current year. In spite of the difficult market the dividend is expected to be held at 4.3p, although earnings per share will drop from 9.8p to 7p.

**SHIELD DIAGNOSTIC:** The manufacturer of diagnostic tests, which saw its shares hit a high of 805p this year, reports preliminary results tomorrow.

The price has been buoyed by bid speculation and last week by broker support. Further news on products, such as its heart disease diagnostic tool, could also have an impact on the price, while a £10 million to £15 million rights issue could be on the cards. Analysts are forecasting a pre-tax loss of £1.1 million, against profits last time of £200,000.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Clues are due on rate move

CITY economists will be scrutinising a range of economic indicators due to be published this week in an effort to gauge when the next rise in interest rates may be due after the quarter-point rise to 6.75 per cent last week.

Initially the City was mildly disappointed that the rise was not a half point, but on Friday, the market mood turned to reasonably optimistic anticipation of the next rise. Even gilts rose, a paradoxical reaction to thoughts of rising interest rates.

On Monday, the City will see producer prices for June, which are expected to show the anti-inflationary impact of the strong pound on manufacturers' input prices. The City expects year-on-year input prices to be down by as much as 9 per cent. Output prices are expected to be flat month-on-month and to show a 1.1 per cent rise year on year.

Wednesday will see the eagerly awaited publication of minutes from the June monetary policy committee meeting. Economists need all the clues they can get on how Labour's monetary policy committee system is working if they are ever to be in a position to make a reasonable second guess at how the thinking will go in years to come.

The public sector borrowing requirement figure for June will also be out on Wednesday. The May PSBR reached £4 billion, and the City has pencilled in £4.2 billion for June. However, changes in the way that VAT is collected will make accurate forecasting difficult.

Unemployment figures for June, also out on Wednesday, are expected to show a fall of 25,000 in the number of benefits claimants, an acceleration from the £5,000 fall registered in May. Recent steady pay settlements lead economists to believe that the figure for average earnings growth for May will remain at 4.5 per cent.

Money supply figures are due on Friday. The broad M4 figure features strongly in the Bank of England Inflation Report, although some economists, at least, find that the figures say little about what is to happen in the economy. An 11.2 per cent year-on-year rise in M4 in June is expected, little changed on May.

GEORGE SIVELL

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times Buy Prudential, LucasVarity, Ionica, Parkland, Singer & Friedlander, Countryside, FII Group, The Sunday Telegraph Buy Courtaulds, Hit Entertainment, SCI Entertainment, Five Oaks Investments, Oriental Restaurant Group, Sell MEL Furniture, Boots, The Observer Buy Dalgety, TI, The Mail on Sunday Buy McBride, Mulberry, Sell Games Workshop.

## Virgin backs chain of Kinko's shops

By ERIC REGULY

**RICHARD BRANSON'S** Virgin Group has formed a joint venture with Kinko's, America's largest chain of 24-hour office services shops, to open as many as 200 Kinko's outlets in Britain and France. The venture, to be announced today, will see Virgin spend about US\$4 million (£2.4 million) to open the first two Kinko's shops in Britain. Both will be located in central London, with one in the Holborn area and the other in Soho. Outlets in Edinburgh, Manchester and other cities are to follow next year. Virgin

also plans to put them into airports and rail terminals. Kinko's, a privately held company that was founded in California in 1970, has 850 branches in six countries. The majority of them are seven-day, 24-hour operations that cater to professionals in the financial, legal and creative industries. Its services include colour printing, video conferencing, photocopying, computer rentals and the binding of reports.

The managing director of the joint venture will be Kevin Griffiths, the Virgin Group director responsible for information technology.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

## VINDEMIATRIX

(b) A bright fixed star in the constellation Virgo. Medieval or modern Latin feminine of *vindeiator* vintage, star in Virgo, from the Latin *vindeiare*. "Twenty degrees north of Spica, is Vindemiatrix, in the arm of Virgo, a star of the third magnitude."

## ZARF

(a) A cup-shaped holder for a hot coffee-cup, used in the Levant, usually of metal and of ornamental design. Derived from the Arabic word for a vessel. "The zarf always came as a welcome relief for those coffee drinkers with more tender skin."

## YERESYEVE

(a) A gift customarily given or exacted at the New Year, or at the beginning of a year in office. "Yeresyive, is a Toll or Fine, taken by the King's Officers, on a Person's entering into an Office; or rather, a Bribe given to them to connive at Extortion, or other Offence in him that gives it."

## VEEDOR

(c) An official invested with inspecting or controlling power. "There is one who is in constant attendance, and whose mere appearance can instill much respect, and dare we say fear, into those around."

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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Windfalls figured large in the Budget and they have been the focus of much subsequent comment. But, as British Rail might have said, they were the wrong sort of windfall. It isn't the gains on the shares of privatised utilities which threaten to destabilise the British economy, but rather gains to consumers from demutualising building societies. The Chancellor famously addressed the former by introducing the windfall tax, but he did next to nothing about the latter.

It is easy to argue that the effect of these windfalls on spending is likely to be negligible. After all, where does the money come from? In any real sense, the nation is not richer because the Halifax issues shares.

Under the old set-up, people owned voting rights in the societies of which they were members and they were the implicit owners of the societies' reserves. Now these "assets" have been changed into shares that can be exchanged for cash. The National Accounts record no increase in either income or wealth for the personal sector — what happens is simply a change in the composition of the personal sector's asset holdings.

Yet we all know that this is just another piece of accountants' hooey. Before the demutualisation boom, most people did not think of themselves as the owners of building societies, but rather as their customers. Even if some did see themselves

as "members", they had little or no concept of this membership being worth anything. Now they are not only told what it is worth, but actually given direct access to the money. So in a real sense, they feel richer.

The scale of the sums in question has grown enormously. Not that long ago it seemed that the total amount of demutualisation payouts this year would be of the order of £10 billion — big, but not big enough to bust a forecast.

Now, as a result of more payouts, and sharply higher share prices, the total may come to £30 billion to £35 billion. This amounts to some 4 per cent of Britain's total national income, or some 6 per cent of consumers' incomes after tax — the equivalent of more than 15p off the standard rate of income tax for a year.

How will people react to such windfalls? It is impossible to know for sure. You cannot tell simply by observing what people do with their windfall shares. Just because someone sells them does not necessarily mean that they are going to spend the money. They may leave it on deposit, buy other shares, or repay debt. Equally, someone may spend a windfall without touching the shares

## The wrong sort of windfall tax



ROGER BOOTLE

at all. The issue turns on how consumers react to what they may properly regard as an increase in their wealth.

Economists are bound to begin by asking what is the "rational" response. Provided that the gains are believed to be one-off, then, mirroring what happens when a pensioner uses a lump sum to purchase an annuity, it is to spread the gain over many years. This means spending only slightly more than the interest on the capital, perhaps 10

per cent or so. Of course, real people will not behave exactly like this. Some will blow the lot; others will save the lot. Exactly where the balance lies will depend on consumer psychology. The ultrarational approach may mislead in this case because a very large amount of money is spread quite thinly. It is not like preparing to retire on a pension, or winning the lottery, when the sums are potentially life-changing and thereby demand a measured approach. Two or three thousand pounds appearing out of the blue will make next to no material difference to most people's long-term prospects if saved, but if spent, could finance a very nice treat.

All of this presents the Bank of England with a tricky problem. If the figures for consumer spending continue to be frothy this summer, should it relax in the belief that this merely reflects a one-off effect that will quickly pass out of the figures? Or should it be concerned that it represents the early signs of a consumer boom that could continue well into next year and beyond?

The Bank will be haunted by the past. In the 1980s, the management of the economy was

thrown off balance by the effects of financial deregulation.

At first, it was widely believed that the freeing up of banks and building societies would have only a minor effect on the economy. But spending had been effectively constrained by individuals' financial illiquidity, particularly with regard to realising the apparently locked-up value of the equity in their homes. Now they could easily get their money out with a second mortgage. As a result, consumer spending ballooned.

Financial liberalisation was a one-off change. If its effects had come through gradually it would not have destabilised the economy. As it was, they came through in a rush. It was like opening the floodgates.

In a way, the windfall effect is directly comparable. It isn't a matter of whether the money is spent, but when. The economy could readily cope with an extra £30 billion of spending spread over ten years. But £30 billion in one go would spell a boom too far.

When they first arise, economists and officials have a way of pooh-poohing what subsequently turn out to be the defining forces of the period, while they concentrate on honing their economic models. The windfall effect may turn out to be another example. If it does, then just like the last time, the price will be paid in much higher interest rates and an uncompetitive pound.

## Construction firms poised to create 10,000 jobs

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

CONSTRUCTION companies will hire up to 10,000 new employees over the next two years, according to Sir Martin Laing, chairman of John Laing and president of the new Construction Confederation. The hirings will be particularly welcome as they follow the loss of more than 100,000 jobs in the industry earlier in the decade.

Sir Martin told *The Times* that many of the people required by the industry could come from the Government's New Deal job programmes for the young unemployed.

Construction companies believe they are facing growing skill shortages as demand increases in the industry, especially for skills associated with housebuilding — bricklayers, plasterers and carpenters — as the housing market improves.

Ministers are likely to seize on Sir Martin's statement as a means of getting large firms in the building industry involved in the jobs programme, which aims to offer work or training places to up to 250,000 18 to 24-year-olds who have been unemployed for six months or more.

The Government has indicated that companies such as Rover, Tesco, J Sainsbury, Prudential and Ford are interested in taking young people on under the scheme.

Sir Martin said: "There will be a real need for new recruits, rather than doing it for pure or altruistic reasons."

Building firms are likely to draw the new employees they need from a variety of sources, Sir Martin said. These include former construction employees made redundant during the industry's double-dip recession of the 1990s but who may now be drawn back, people coming in to the industry for the first time through bodies such as the Construction Industry Training Board, and the unemployed brought in through the Government's Welfare to Work programme.

Sir Martin says that the industry "would like to find a way of marrying together welfare-to-work with training", an issue it will discuss with ministers. Building companies will come together this week at the launch of the Construction Confederation, which will replace a range of individual and often competing trade organisations.

The confederation, which will have about 5,000 member companies responsible for more than three-quarters of UK construction work, is expected to release an economic survey that is expected to report a further output rises and demand for new employees.



Robert Enthoven wants to increase the number of UK restaurants in his Nando's chain from five to 19

## Nando's to add pre-float spice

NANDO'S, a chain of spicy chicken restaurants run by a South African entrepreneur, is to more than treble its number of British outlets over the next 18 months in a run-up to a stock market flotation (Fraser Nelson writes).

Robert Enthoven, managing director of the UK

division, plans to create around 300 new jobs by lifting the number of restaurants from five to 19 by the end of next year.

The £4 million expansion is being backed by his family of well-known South Africa investment bankers, who own 70 per cent of the company.

He is also hoping to make around £4 million for his restaurant managers by recruiting them on a golden-handcuff incentive scheme, which offers a shareholding that could be worth around £300,000 on flotation.

Mr Enthoven said: "Our secret, apart from the food, is

that if the restaurant does badly, they feel the pain in their own back pocket."

Nando's UK division is understood to be worth around £20 million at present, but Mr Enthoven said he would be reluctant to bring the company to the market for less than £100 million.

## British Land faces protest over incentives

By Jason Nisbet

BRITISH LAND, the property group chaired by John Ritblat, will today face a protest against its new share incentive plan, which could pay up to six times executives' basic salary.

The plan means that Mr Ritblat could pick up more than £2.5 million over ten years, starting in 2000. His pay in the past financial year was £447,000, although he earned £2.4 million in the previous year.

Pirc, the pensions advisory group whose subscribers manage £130 billion of funds, has recommended that its clients vote against the scheme at British Land's annual shareholder meeting in central London.

It is unhappy because of the measure British Land uses to assess whether executives should receive the award, which Pirc claims is biased towards British Land.

The scheme is a restricted share plan that awards shares to executive directors and other top executives. It measures the growth of British Land's net asset value

against the annual index compiled by the Investment Property Databank (IPD).

If British Land outperforms the IPD index by at least 3 per cent, then the senior executives in the plan can receive four times their salary. This climbs to five times if British Land outperforms the index by up to 5 per cent and six times if it is better by more than 5 per cent.

Anne Simpson, joint managing director of Pirc, said that the IPD index is the wrong comparison: it gauges the performance of properties held by pension funds, which, unlike British Land, do not borrow to buy the properties. This means that British Land's portfolio is heavily geared to the property market; so that if the market continues its recent bull run, British Land is likely to outperform the IPD index without doing anything.

British Land says that the plan was approved by Bacon & Woodrow, its actuarial adviser, and falls within the guidelines of both the National Association of Pension Funds and the Association of British Insurers.

## Littlewoods in talks to sell 19 stores

LITTLEWOODS, the privately owned stores-to-warehouse group, is in talks to sell 19 of its largest stores to a single buyer for about £120 million (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Littlewoods, whose negotiations to sell its entire 135-store chain to Kingfisher, owner of Woolworths and Comet, failed this month, is now set to sell the 19 shops to a leading stores group. The sale could be agreed as early as this week.

The company has been in talks with Boots, Next and Marks & Spencer. It may also sell some stores to other buyers, including Tesco and Sainsbury.

Among the 190 stores may retain, Littlewoods plans to rename 12 stores Berkertex as a trial in the clothing market.

## OFT inquiry into CMC extended

By Gavin Lumsden

The Office of Fair Trading has extended its inquiry into City Mortgage Corporation amid mounting political pressure for government action to stop it charging exorbitant loan rates.

Questionnaires have been sent to 37 members of the Council Tenants Association and the CMC Victims Association, both of which have complained to the OFT about the company's practices. It will then consider whether to revoke CMC's consumer credit licence.

The move follows a meeting between Nigel Griffiths, Consumer Affairs Minister, and

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the OFT, on June 16. In May the minister declared his opposition to lenders, such as CMC, which exploit poor people with bad credit histories with dual rates of interest and extremely high redemption penalties. CMC was one of 70 companies that received a warning about these practices from Mr Bridgeman in February.

Political interest in the company has heightened since William Hague, leader of the Conservative Party, disclosed that CMC's managing director, David Steene, a former Conservative councillor in Hertfordshire, had donated £20,000 to his election campaign.

Paul Flynn, Newport West MP, has stepped up his campaign to expose CMC and highlight the inaction of the OFT. He has asked MPs, regulators and borrowers to a meeting at the Commons today.

A spokesman for Mr Griffiths denied speculation yesterday that the Government was about to stop secondary lenders such as CMC from repossessing properties.

READER OFFER

THE TIMES

## Exclusive private view at the Tate Gallery

Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive party, on Tuesday, July 22, to celebrate the Tate Gallery's 100th birthday.

Tate Gallery 100

Tate Gallery Centenary 1897-1997



The entire gallery will be open and works on show include special centenary displays, the Turner collection and the current major exhibition of Ellsworth Kelly's works. The party is from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

You will be able to see a selection of 100 works of special interest, two rooms of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite paintings and Henry Tate's Gift, which tells the fascinating story of the gallery's foundation, with a display of works from the original collection.

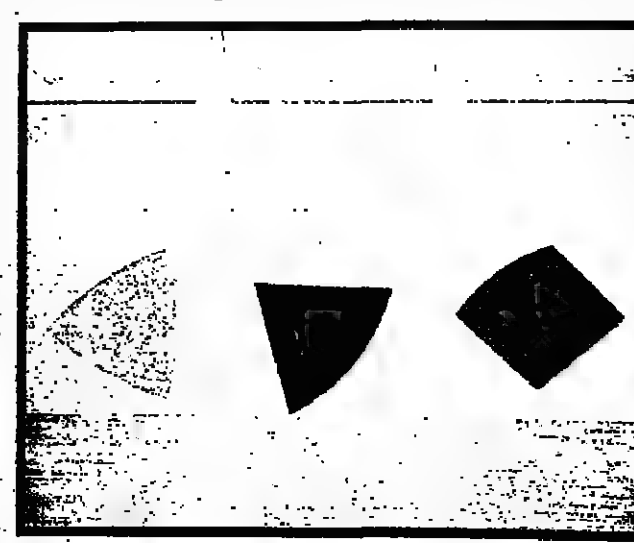
Among these originals you will see the

beautiful oil painting *The Lady of Shalott* (above) by artist John William Waterhouse.

The current major exhibition at the Tate focuses on the work of the leading American painter Ellsworth Kelly. This is the first retrospective of this important

artist's work in Britain. It includes more than 50 works from 1949 to the present day. Kelly's paintings (see picture below) are based on careful observations of the real world, transformed into abstract works of the greatest possible purity of colour, line and form.

Invitations to this unique private view are strictly limited and readers are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Call First Call on 0171-420 0000. Tickets, which cost £16.75 per person, include canapés and two glasses of wine.



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THE POUND

US dollar 1.6945 (+0.0325)  
German mark 2.9882 (+0.0125)  
Exchange index 105.0 (+3.2)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3052.7 (+49.4)  
FTSE 100 4799.5 (+159.2)  
New York Dow Jones 7921.82 (+234.10)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19875.49 (-648.26)

CHANGING TIMES



## Lonely hearts and high tech get together

Eric Reguly on the pioneers pulling in profits from taking small-ad dating 'out of the gutter'



Love conquers all, but now it receives a helping hand from interactive systems

less possibilities are yours for about 50p a minute.

Thanks to computers, phone dating has become big business. One company in particular, Tele-Publishing UK, has made a splash in the fledgling industry and identified it for international growth.

The Tele-Publishing companies comprise the largest "voice personals" business in the world and claim to have become the number one player in Britain in little more than a year. Growth has been so rapid that floating Tele-Publishing UK is becoming a serious option.

The Tele-Publishing companies are owned by Phoenix Media/Communications Group, of Boston, owner of the Boston Phoenix, an arts, entertainment and lifestyle newspaper, and several other media businesses with collective annual turnover of about \$150 million (£89 million). David Dinnage, the 36-year-old American chief executive of Tele-Publishing UK, believes in the product he sells. When he arrived in London last year to launch the British company, he placed an introduction ad in *The Times*. He received 70 responses and a costly dating frenzy ensued.

The phone dating business was launched in 1989 by

Stephen Mindich, 54, the chairman and owner of Phoenix Media. "I had installed a new voice-mail system in the company and I wondered whether the technology could be applied to personal ads," he says. "At that time, you could only respond to personal ads through the mail."

A software developer was recruited and Tele-Publishing was in business. The consumer response was phenomenal, and competitors began to pile in. "The benefits are enormous," says Mindich. "It's a private system and you have the opportunity to sample many people. Their thoughts, dic-

tion, likes and preferences are all there. You don't have to go to bars and singles clubs to learn about the person."

Telephone dating already existed in Britain before Tele-Publishing arrived. The American company just pursued and marketed it more aggressively, introduced more sophisticated software, and offered a one-stop service for newspapers.

Tele-Publishing places the ad, with a four-digit voice-box number, in newspapers at no charge to the person seeking companionship. The software then takes over and the money rolls in. Of the 50p-a-minute call, Tele-Publishing and the newspaper in which the ad appeared keep about 27p; the rest goes to the phone company.

Dinnage says that Tele-Publishing has already captured more than 40 per cent of the phone dating market. He believes that the market has plenty of room to expand because, he says cheerily, "35 per cent of the adult population is either single, widowed or divorced". There are plans to launch the service in The Netherlands, Germany and Australia.

Dinnage sees himself as more than simply a businessman. By rejecting ads from prostitutes and pursuing working professionals, he believes that he has helped to change the introductions business from one that catered for life's losers to one that provides an essential service to those without the time or inclination to hang out in sleazy bars. "We're taking it out of the gutter and putting it into the mainstream," he says.

Perhaps, however, the old-fashioned method was not that bad after all. Dinnage, for all his responses, is still single and very much available.

## South Africa counts the cost of deep decline in gold price

Inigo Gilmore looks at the knock-on economic effects of threatened job cuts among miners



For every three miners in work, at least one person is employed in related industries

Trade unions, economic analysts and industry leaders are painting a picture of a bleak social crisis in South Africa with the tumbling gold price threatening mine closures, a surge in unemployment and the possible demise of mining communities.

Economists estimate that as many as 50,000 gold-miners could lose their jobs if gold prices fall to rise from their current 12-year low. But it is not just mining jobs in one of the country's biggest industries that are at risk. For every three miners of the 350,000 employed country-wide, at least one person is employed in related industries such as explosives, steel, drilling machinery and engineering. Communities in several parts of the country depend exclusively on the mines for their survival.

Ben Molapo, a spokesman for the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), said: "This is major crisis and communities who get spin off from mines could go down badly if the mines go."

"Miners cannot be integrated easily into other economic activities and there is already large scale unemployment. The picture is bleak and so far the Government and the industry has not come up with social plans to address this problem."

Last Thursday, the gold price fell to its weakest level since 1985 and the slide could not have come at a worse time. Among the producers with the highest costs in the world, South African mines have suffered falling output since the 1970s and last year it was a dismal 496 tonnes. With a gold price that lingers at or below \$320 an ounce, more mines are pushed to the marginal fringes and more jobs are at risk as employers attempt to cut costs.

The gold price slide last week was set off by an Australian Central Bank announcement that it had sold 60 per cent of its gold reserves. There are fears that other central banks will follow suit — a development that would be likely to result in a further depression in prices for years to come.

One analyst in Johannesburg said that even at \$320 an ounce more than half of South

Africa's mines are unprofitable. At \$305 only five would stay open for long.

Roger Baxter, senior economist at the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg, said that in the first three months of this year, nine goldmines, with 63,000 employees, were classified as marginal and seven of those were operating at a loss. With a third of the country's population out of work, and miners supporting on average between seven and ten people on their salaries of around 2,000 rands a month, any major job cuts would place an onerous burden on the Government, whose job

creation schemes have borne little fruit.

Furthermore, with the country holding an estimated 40 per cent of the world's gold reserves — it still accounts for a quarter of the gross domestic product and half of export earnings — damage to the industry could seriously shake confidence in the rand. The Benoni Plant of East Rand Proprietary Mines near Johannesburg closed down last Monday partly because of the falling gold price. Marginal mines such as Durban Roadport Deep, situated west of Johannesburg, are in serious trouble. The 102-

year-old mine had as many as 18,000 workers in its heyday but now employs only 2,000. Their ambitious expansion plans were written when the gold price stood at \$400.

But it is the rural areas where the economic and social burden linked to mine closures would be most keenly felt. The goldmines are the only source of income for many small towns such as Orkney in North West Province and Virginia in the Free State. They could simply end up becoming ghost towns.

Large scale retrenchments would have a devastating knock-on effect as hundreds

of restaurants, shops, and bars live off on mining customers.

Mr Molapo said the unions have been warning the Government for some time about the possible consequences of a dip in gold price but to no avail. He said because of the lack of social responsibility within the industry and the apartheid mentality of the past no money was set aside for retrenchment funds and a scheme initiated in 1988 to assist ex-miners in learning new skills is poorly funded.

The gold price slide also poses a regional crisis and trade unions in South Africa are urging the Government to investigate joint retrenchment schemes with neighbouring countries that supply thousands of migrant workers. For over a century, men from Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique who have been coming to the country to work in the goldmines. In Lesotho, mining earnings accounts for 70 per cent of the country's rural household income — Mozambique is on similar scale — and about 30 per cent of the national budget comes from deferred pay to miners.

An estimated 70,000 Lesotho men have been retrenched from South African mines over the past ten years and they have returned with little or no job prospects. The landlocked country has long exported its unskilled labour but it has made no provision for those who fall victims to economic slumps and the social consequences are evident in some communities.

In the past, agriculture supplemented the mining income but the land cannot cope with the pressures of this increased demand. Crime has become a huge problem. Stock theft is up and there has been a rapid growth in gang related violence. In addition, the number of abandoned children has risen over recent years as their families cannot afford to feed them.

There are fears that this scenario could be replicated across the region unless swift and decisive action is taken to reverse the decline. High on the industry's agenda is finding ways of increasing productivity by working more shifts, but for some mines at least it is probably too late.

## How to travel and save

Dosh Channel 4, 8.00pm

Adam Faith's cheery guide to money-stretching continues to score high on accessibility and down-to-earth advice. Among tonight's items are tips on shopping abroad to save money, whether buying a CD in New York or a Volvo in Sweden, and the importance, even for young couples who intend to be around for many more years, of making a will. A new running report follows Solly Charn as he sets up his own restaurant undaunted by the statistic that one new business in five goes bust in the first year. Perhaps the programme tries to cram too much in. As somebody who is considering changing from BT to a cable telephone system, your previewer was much interested in what Dosh had to say on the matter. It was disappointingly little.

Neighbours From Hell ITV, 9.00pm

For those who have been watching the box attentively over the past few years this anthology of disputes between neighbours must have a familiar ring. The cockerel which has been driving a couple mad in Devon has been much publicised, so has the dreadful racist campaign against Mal Hussain. He runs a grocery shop on an estate in Lancaster and has endured six years of attacks on himself and his property just because he is Asian. No fewer than 39 of his neighbours have criminal convictions for their behaviour but the trouble goes on. Less vicious, but just as vexing for the victims, are neighbours who plant fast-growing conifers which cut out light or have family rows in the small hours of the morning. Most bizarre is the tale of a couple who claim to be persecuted by neighbours who are jealous of their expensive home improvements.

Secret History: Gold Fever Channel 4, 9.00pm

The Klondike gold rush of 1898 saw more than 100,000 people making for the icy wastes of northwest Canada in search of instant fortunes. For those who were not, many died in the attempt. Charlie Chaplin satirised the episode as a parable of human greed. This reconstruction is more concerned to record than to judge. Like many



Gold prospectors in 1898 (C4, 9.00pm)

documentaries from the United States it makes brilliant use of two resources our film-makers tend to neglect, the words of contemporaries in letters and diaries, and still photographs. One image, showing a long line of prospectors struggling up a snow-covered mountain, is wonderfully evocative. With historians and descendants of the pioneers adding their gloss, *Gold Fever* builds up a richly detailed account. Stories of individuals, some who made it and others who did not, are set against the epic sweep.

Perverted Justice Channel 4, 10.55pm

It has often been remarked how the death penalty in the United States is applied disproportionately to blacks. *Perverted Justice* argues that the same applies to lesbians. Of 46 women awaiting execution in America, 40 per cent are lesbians. In fact or by insinuation. Since at the most lesbians make up only 10 per cent of the US female population, the case appears to be strong. The film backs up the figures by looking at actual cases and it does seem that lesbians who kill are more likely to receive a death sentence than straight women who commit similar crimes. The reason, it is suggested, lies in the strong moral disapproval of sexual deviance, particularly in the southern states where the death penalty is most widely used. The cinema has played its part by linking sexual deviance with criminality. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

Role Play Radio 3, 9.35pm

A new series of the programme that occasionally strays close to making a contribution to *Private Eye's* "Luvvies" column but is generally a fascinating insight into the actor's art. The fact that the programme is not in the top 25 in the ratings is a little left in that maddening gap between knowing too little and knowing too much. Tonight the two actors are Michael Pennington and Fiona Shaw, both talking about the very different interpretations of *Richard II* in which each has starred. Pennington in the Michael Bogdanov version and Shaw in Deborah Warner's production at the National. Shaw says she could not resist the gender challenge of playing Richard, wanting to "see what would happen".

### RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Gunning 8.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. See Choice 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whitey 3.00 Mary Ann Hobbs 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Live Music: Radio 1 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Clare Sugrue 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Clare Warren

### RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Jung 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes on Air 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alan Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mar 2.00pm Race on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Newsline 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Muscular Prose. The first of three programmes celebrating sports writing 8.00 Parkinson on Sport 8.00 Tales of the Turf 8.30 Work Out with Lesley Curwen 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra with Lesley Curwen 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Fred Sharp

### TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Askey and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Gilchrist 9.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rasmussen 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dixon

The Radio 1 Roadshow Radio 1, 11.30am

If you are no longer young, certain places in Scotland are worth avoiding this week. They are Aberdeen (today), Edinburgh (tomorrow), Ballach (Wednesday), Glasgow (Thursday) and Irvine (Friday). The 25 locations are the locations for the first week of the Radio 1 Roadshow, which continues for six weeks. The main clue to the Roadshow's arrival in your town is an 80ft caravan painted silver and incorporating a huge video screen. The show itself has an effervescent quality which is rare in any broadcasting medium and the sense of organic chaos makes the show much more listenable than it might first appear. The live audience makes the atmosphere at the BBC's second-largest music promotion after the Proms. Peter Barnard

### WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The Four Corners 7.30 Omnibus 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Vintage Chart Show 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 A Question of Science 10.05 Business 10.15 Body of Knowledge 10.45 English 10.48 Sport 11.30 Europe Today 12.30pm Jazzmat 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsweek 3.05 Outlook 3.30 What's News 3.45 The Lab 4.05 Sport 4.15 Encyclopaedia Britannica 4.30 New Country 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 Seven Days 6.45 Sport 7.30 Brain of Britain 10.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack 8.35 Newsweek 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.20 Heritage 11.20 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 Earth, Air, Fire And Water 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 Dying Notes 3.30 On Screen 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

### CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Alan Mann 8.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto Vivaldi (Cello Concerto in A minor RV461), Bachmann (Violin Concerto in D minor 3.00 James Croft 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonata. Music to mark Bastille Day: Air Baroque (La Marseillaise), Gossec (Overture for Wind Instruments), Saint-Saëns (Piano Concerto No 3 in F, Egyptian), Kubik (Overture, The Great Domino), Messiaen (Glorious Music, Le-Ciel) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Concerto (1)

### VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Nick Abbott 10.00 Graham Dams 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Barker (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Prior

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Serenade in G, K525), Handel, arr. Stokowski (Overture in D minor), Barber (Summer Music) 9.00 Young People's Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Brahms (Overture Academic Festival), Rimsky-Korsakov (Symphony No 2, Antar) 10.00 Musical Encounters: Cheltenham Festival Live. Includes Brahms (Piano in E flat, Op 40), John Casken (Daring the Storm), Beethoven (Spring Quartet in F minor, Op 95) 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Beethoven. 1.00am Newsline 1.30am Live from St John's, Smith Square, London, the final concert of the 1997 season. Takacs Quartet. Haydn (String Quartet in F, Op 74 No 2), Beethoven (String Quartet in C, Op 59 No 3, Razumovsky) 2.05 Ulster Orchestra, under Jasak Kasparyk. Adria Aleva, piano. Borodin (Symphony No 2 in B minor), Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto), Victor Herriot (Horn and Trombone) 3.48 Saxophone Colossus. Sonny Rollins talks about his work with the trumpeter Don Cherry and the saxophonist Coleman Hawkins in the 1950s (55) 4.15 Music Restored (1)

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.15am News 7.00 The Archers 7.15 The Archers 7.30 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: The Dead Wait, by Paul Herzberg. During the Angolan Civil War in 1975, a white South African conscript was ordered to carry a wounded black freedom fighter on his back through the bush. With Mick Ford 9.15 Colour Radio. The first of a series exploring the sounds of colour (1/5) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Captain Correll's Mandolin, by Louis de Bernières (515) 11.00 Tales from the Widdie. Fergus Keeling explores the passion for widdies of three field scientists (340) (1) 11.00 Education Matters (LW), with David Waller 11.30 Pet Sematary (FM) (3/5) (1) 12.00 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.05 News (FM) Weather 12.30am Late Book: The White Boy Shuffles, by Paul Beatty. Set in the heart of America's urban culture. Read by Ray Shell (1/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.2. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 195. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 609. WORLD SERVICE. MW 645. LW 105. CLASSIC FM. MW 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1068. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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3

مكتبة الأصيل



# India via a roundabout, if not scenic route

David Dimbleby is at that wonderful stage in his journalistic career when nobody any longer questions what he is doing. "I'm off to India," he announced a few months ago. Nobody at the BBC posed the sort of questions that lesser mortals would have encountered, such as "why?" or "do you know anything about India?" They just smiled, gave him a camera crew and told him to send a postcard.

So he did. David Dimbleby's India (BBC2, Saturday and Sunday) was the equivalent of several postcards. He found a story, he pointed a camera at it and moved on. He would worry about how to link them together when he got back to England. But then the general election happened, brother Jonathan threatened to steal his thunder with his fly-on-the-pattern series about Hong Kong and, what with one thing or another, brother David never got round to writing

about the flinking-together process very much at all.

The result was 100 minutes of rambling, contradictory television that was far more enjoyable than it had any right to be. The only real disappointment was that he never got round to "India — a land of contrasts": an opportunity missed on such occasions.

Two themes ran loosely through the programmes, with the emphasis on loosely. The first was economic progress, or as Dimbleby put it, "trying to catch up with the 20th century, so it can take part in the 21st". The second was the expanding role of women, or as Dimbleby put it "Have you got a boyfriend?" His schoolgirl audience giggled politely, before explaining that things were different in India.

Put like that (the themes, not the boyfriends), it all sounded quite promising. Not quite Mark Tully but good enough. But then

Dimbleby got diverted, at some length, by the Bihar fodder scam, where an awful lot of non-existent cows had allegedly attracted 900 million dollars of very real agricultural aid, and then by the human interest stories that you stumble over on every corner in India.

On Saturday, it was unwanted female babies, while last night it was a boy with no legs who swung himself around on his arms and wanted to become a tailor. Neither story had much to do with his main arguments, but Dimbleby knew they would move a British audience, so stuck them in anyway. Given that the alternative was more Indian agricultural policy, it was the right decision.

Last night's slightly more ordered programme ensured that most of the important points had been covered, albeit in no particular order. The bane that is India's

birthrate; the threat to democracy when the benefits of progress accrue (very slowly) to an urban few rather than the rural many; and the gradual changes in India's class structure. We met slum-dwellers, the lower middle class and diamond-dealing Indian yuppies. But Dimbleby left us with a member of India's emerging managerial class, whose proudly stated aim in life was to become a

big-shot. By which he meant "a big house, a chauffeur-driven car, foreign holidays". In short, he wanted to be a Dimbleby and frankly, on the evidence of this jolly jaunt, who wouldn't?

After 17 minutes of Dalziel & Pascoe (BBC1, Saturday) I was confident I had cracked both the case of the dead cyclist and the murdered old soldier. As the next 73 minutes revealed, I couldn't have been more wrong or more pleased to be wrong. Over the past five weeks (four new stories, one opportunity repeat) the screen adaptations of Reginald Hill's novels have emerged as very good television — right up there with the chief inspectors Morse and Wexford. Their only real problem, curiously, is the lack of commercial, which tends to make a 90-minute episode rather hard work.

Their strengths are the well-judged humour (which never strays beyond the bounds of

character) and the fact that these are true ensemble productions in a way that the rivals are not. Warren Clarke's wonderful Dalziel, who spent most of Saturday night under a cloud of suspected corruption and single malt whisky, is happy to leave large chunks of plot to Colin Buchanan's increasingly thoughtful Pascoe. He, in turn, is happy to cede substantial bits of script to his wife Ellie.

Dalziel, naturally, turned out to be still on the side of truth and justice in the end (how could we, let alone Pascoe, have thought otherwise?) which means that Yorkshire's finest will be back, just as soon as Hill's written a few more novels.

But no sooner than one treat goes, another returns. Frazier (Channel 4) was back, restoring Friday night to a sublime state of unmissability. First Friends, where's Ross's experiment with

hair-gel is beginning to look like a terrible mistake. Then the somewhat underrated Cybill, where Cybill Shepherd and Christine Baranski are much funnier — and a whole lot ruder — than you expect them to be. And now, a new series of Frazier: perfect.

The opening episode was laugh-out-loud funny, partly because the writers had uncharacteristically borrowed a bit of old-fashioned British farce (the simple lie that quickly gets out of hand) and partly because of Scott Adkins's truly terrible English accent. He was the son that Dick Van Dyke and Mary Poppins thankfully never had.

The fact that humour overcame such a handicap is down to the superb cast, Miles' infectious delight on the rare occasions he gets to kiss Daphne, and the fact that old-fashioned British farce can be very, very funny. Even when it's done by Americans.

## REVIEW

Matthew Bond

As HTV West except: 10.30am Our House (59627) 11.00 Side Effects (9416019) 11.50 Chatsworth (596646) 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (898882) 1.50 Blue Heelers (5967337) 2.55-3.20 High Road (596646) 3.10-4.40 Shortland Street (1791191) 5.10-7.00 Central News (268795) 7.40-8.00 The Face of Fear (22175928) 10.40 War of the Worlds (5161009) 1.40 Late and Loud (948008) 2.40 Film: Lambda — The Forbidden Dance (88552)

## WESTCOUNTRY

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## MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 10.30am Film: Hart to Hart Returns (94062808) 12.55-1.25 The Big Breakfast (38207) 9.00 Bewitched (51085) 9.30 The Monroes (1567068) 10.25 On the Way to Monkey Bay. Exploring Lake Malawi in southern Africa (17) (5870240) 11.25 Secrets of the Moor. The Quantocks (17) (5557737) 11.55 Cornwall Animation (5292004) 12.00 Members Only (6/6) (17) (71849) 12.30pm Caroline in the City (17) (8971733) 12.55 Moving Peaks. (17) (8954243) 1.25 Travlogi Treks. Zanzibar (17) (5320240) 1.30 Pet Rescues (b/w) (17) (5455578) 1.50 Dancing in the Dark (1949). A musical comedy, with William Powell, Betsy Drake and Adolphe Menjou. Directed by Irving Reis (17) (48682714) 3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (17) (917) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (17) (424) 4.30 Countdown (17) (895755) 4.55 Montel Williams (17) (2585578) 5.30 Pet Rescues (17) (258) 6.00 Tour de France The first mountain stage — 152km from Pau to Loudéac, Vallee d'Aud Louron (801) 6.30 Hollyhocks Teen soap (17) (153) 7.00 Channel 4 News (17) (78355) 7.50 York Early Music Festival The first of the daily visits. The Rose Court of York perform John Dowland's 1604 Seaven Teares figured in Seaven Passionate Favens (373240) 8.00 [Choice] Doeh Adam Faith's guide to money management, featuring the benefits of shopping abroad with sterling and an update on a fledgling London restaurateur (7/8) (17) (7820) 8.30 Absolutely Animals Rescuing wild donkeys in Death Valley, California. How Edinburgh Zoo is building enclosures to stimulate their occupants (6/8) (17) (58277) 9.00 [Choice] Secret History: Gold Fever The story of the Klondike gold rush (17) (9153) 10.00 NYPD Blue Spowicz arrests a rat when he investigates a crime involving royalty (17) (832375) 11.15 Go Fishing (54608) 11.45 Swift Justice (927337)

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## SATELLITE AND CABLE

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## FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Little Lulu (5923337) 6.30 Inspector Gadget (517004) 7.00 Sam and Max (5923337) 7.30 Power Rangers (5923337) 8.00 Beethoven (5923337) 8.30 The Simpsons (5923337) 9.00 The Simpsons (5923337) 9.30 The Simpsons (5923337) 10.00 The Simpsons (5923337) 10.30 The Simpsons (5923337) 11.00 The Simpsons (5923337) 11.30 The Simpsons (5923337) 12.00 The Simpsons (5923337)

## BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (47581) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (12289) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (17) (9457714) 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (17) (1871820) 9.50 Kilroy (17) (5550288) 10.30 Who's the Doer? (84555) 11.00 News (17) and weather (7041068) 11.05 Due South Fraser suspects the local supermarket is selling home meat when a youngster becomes seriously ill with food poisoning (17) (5651838) 11.50 Good Neighbourhood (208846) 12.00 News (17) regional news and weather (8529559) 12.25pm Call My Bluff (6205207) 12.35 Neighbours (17) (954008) 1.00 News (17) and weather (15356) 1.30 Regional News (4259337) 1.40 Perry Mason The case of the Heirloom Ring (1983) with Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale. The case attorney uses all his sleuthing skills to scupper a murderer out to frame a pop star at her society wedding. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (3851375) 3.10 Outcry (943328) 4.00 Popeye (17) (780530) 4.10 Benetton (17) (9512065) 4.15 Casper (17) (4391508) 4.35 Run the Risk (17) (8001356) 5.00 Newsround (17) (1147424) 5.10 Eldor. New children's fantasy adventure (17) (4735337) 5.35 Neighbours (17) (954008) 6.00 News (17) and weather (191) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (443) 7.00 Big Breakfast with Peter Ebdon, Ken Doherty and Joe Johnson (17) (5482) 7.30 Mastermind from the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough. Specialist subjects are the Dreyfus affair, the life and painting of Rossetti, symphonic choral music and golf links in Britain and Ireland. Magnus Magnusson asks the questions (17) (827) 8.00 Eastenders ten throws open the doors of his new chip shop (17) (1882) 8.30 Austin's National Blossoms Terry Wogan serves up another selection of out-takes (17) (9707) 9.00 News (17) regional news and weather (8259) 9.30 Blade of a Feather Sharon worries her biological clock is ticking away and decides the time has come to have a baby (17) (59117) 10.00 Panorama Uncovering an international network of illegal smugglers who transport illegal immigrants into Britain and the rest of Europe (17) (100285) 10.45 She Says She's Innocent (1991) Kate Segal plays a mother forced to face up to the fact that her seemingly sweet teenage daughter is the prime suspect in a murder investigation. Also with James Porter and Charlotte Rose. Directed by Charles Correll (574443) 12.15am When a Stranger Calls Back (1993) Carol Kane stars as a woman terrorised by a psychotic murderer. Directed by Fred Walton (2435776) 1.40 Weather (3534950)

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## BBC2

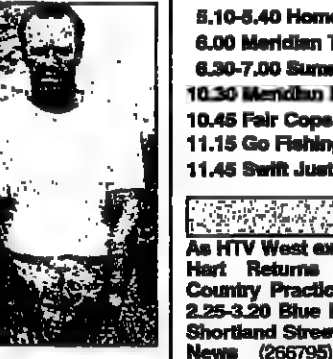
6.00am Open University: Testing Teachers? (7031288) 6.25 Managing Schools (7010795) 6.50 An English Education (5241648) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (17) and signing (5980004) 7.30 The Monroes (1567068) 7.55 To Me, To You (17) (8956714) 8.20 Burn (8934795) 8.35 Raccoons (2556424) 8.00 Cartoon (5768008) 9.10 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (17) (1830998) 9.35 Great Myths and Mysteries of the 20th Century The development of the British De-Havilland DH108 Comet (2537240) 10.00 Teletubbies (86379) 10.30 Julius - Caesar (1953) Acclaimed adaptation of Shakespeare's play starring Martin Brandt and John Gielgud. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (38288) 12.30pm Working Lunch (75795) 1.00 Joshua Jones (25168207) 1.10 Off the Beaten Track The Musketry line between Cork and Blarney (37305725) 1.40 Blockbusters (59538240) 2.08 The Natural World (17) (5841795) 3.00 News: regional, news (17) and weather (1061996) 3.05 Oh, Dirty, Dirty, Dirty! Inside Story: What's going on in London computer line has taken into disarray (17) (9349482) 3.35 News (17) and weather (2420285) 4.00 The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962) John Ford western chronicling the conflict that erupts between ruthless gunfighters. With Lee Marvin, James Stewart and John Wayne (2511) 6.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (17) (82848) 7.25 Talking Time (584511)

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Richard Jobson and family (8.00pm)

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## BROCKET MAN 43

CCA chief to expand hall and clubs group

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JULY 14 1997

## CONSUMING 45

Roger Bootle on the wrong sort of windfall tax



# Supermarkets must share petrol burden, say oil firms

By Martin Barrow

SUPERMARKET chains would be forced to store vast additional quantities of petrol, a cost that would put upward pressure on prices, under proposals put forward by oil companies as part of the Office of Fair Trading inquiry into the petrol market.

Big oil groups such as BP, Shell and Elf claim current legislation on compulsory stocks — reserves of petrol held by the industry to

ensure continuity of supply in the event of war — give an unfair advantage to independent petrol retailers.

In evidence to the OFT later this month, integrated oil companies will tell John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, that supermarket chains, including Tesco and J Sainsbury, should be required to shoulder a greater share of the burden of ensuring continuous supplies. The OFT launched an inquiry into petrol

retailing, including the effects of alleged predatory pricing by Esso through its PriceWatch campaign, last month. National Economics Research Associates, an independent consultancy, was appointed to determine the impact of an increase in the number of low-cost supermarket outlets.

Detailed questionnaires sent by the OFT to the oil industry and consumer groups must be returned by August 1. The outcome of the inquiry, the latest in a long series of

probes by regulatory bodies, is expected in the autumn.

Although the issue of compulsory stocks does not directly fall within the remit of this latest inquiry, integrated oil companies will seize the opportunity "to press for a level playing field," according to one source.

Oil companies with refineries must hold sufficient stocks to cover 75 days of forward supplies. The requirement for independent retailers with no refining capacity is 65

days. Although the disparity may appear minimal, the high volumes of petrol involved mean that the capital cost of fulfilling this legal requirement is substantial. Elf's Millford Haven refinery produces 1.4 billion litres of petrol each year.

With profit margins falling below 4p per litre of petrol for much of the past 12 months — many forecourts have sold petrol at a loss for lengthy periods — oil companies say the modest difference enjoyed by supermarkets trans-

lates into a major competitive advantage.

Chris Hunt, a spokesman for the UK Petroleum Industries Association, which represents the leading oil companies, said: "It is a contentious issue that needs to be addressed. It is an unfair advantage held by supermarkets over the oil companies at a time when profit margins are minimal." Mr Hunt estimates compulsory stocks cost oil companies about £40 million a year in interest charges.

British supermarkets now claim about 23 per cent of the petrol retail market, with Sainsbury alone selling about 1.95 billion litres a year.

Julian Risley, head of petrol at Sainsbury, disputed claims that supermarkets enjoyed an unfair advantage. He argued that integrated oil companies mostly fulfil the compulsory stocks requirement with products they need to maintain for operational purposes. "It heavily favours integrated players," he said.

# Heathrow cuts stretched BA before action

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH AIRWAYS has admitted that overstretched resources at Heathrow resulted in baggage delays and flight cancellations well in advance of last week's industrial action by cabin crew.

High numbers of passengers transferring from other flights, coupled with bad weather and staff shortages, pushed resources to breaking point in late June. Cabin crew shortages resulted in three long-haul cancellations, an overnight delay, and a short-haul cancellation.

The details, disclosed in BA's staff newspaper, point to the longer-term consequences of BA's cost-cutting drive, pioneered by Bob Ayling, the chief executive. BA wants £1 billion in annual cost savings by 2000 and is ruthlessly streamlining its operations.

Controversy over the measures is set to overshadow the BA annual meeting, which takes place in London tomorrow. Last year's threatened pilots' strike cost BA an estimated £15 million in lost business, and analysts put the cost of the current strike action at £15 million to £20 million per day. The precise cost is difficult to quantify, since passengers on full fare tickets can switch to other carriers with-

out notifying BA. Analysts intend to revise their forecasts once the full impact of the industrial action becomes clearer. BA made a pre-tax profit of £540 million last year, on sales of £3.4 billion, and analysts have forecast profits of £715 million.

The potential for trouble at Heathrow stems from the high number of passengers transferring to BA from other flights. About 40 per cent of passengers flying with BA fit this category — Heathrow is an important feeder for traffic from mainland Europe — and BA personnel fear any slight hiccup threatens a damaging knock-on effect.

Bad weather in London and an air traffic control (ATC) failure in France contributed to the June incident. According to the BA report: "Transfer loads reached record levels and staff shortages in terminals meant that resources were stretched beyond limits."

"The impact on baggage was considerable and Heathrow Terminal 4 performance suffered badly, particularly at the end of the week, from late arrivals caused by French ATC and adverse weather, major baggage system breakdowns on Friday and Saturday, as well as the sheer

volume." BA denied having a problem with resources at Heathrow, and blamed its difficulties on isolated conditions. Flights were arriving up to an hour late because of bad weather, leaving little time in which to transfer baggage.

BA insiders say the high volume of transfer passengers leaves the carrier with little room for manoeuvre. Anger over BA's cost-cutting measures has resulted in "go-slows", and seen baggage handlers (employed by BA at Terminal 1 and Terminal 4) refusing to load aircraft, further delaying flights.

Problems have been exacerbated by the breakdown of new baggage machinery installed by BAA, which operates Heathrow. Heathrow handles 55 million passengers a year.

The company was yesterday battling to restore a full service despite disruption caused by the continued absence of staff after services were crippled by the 72-hour walk-out.

BA said that of the 2,000 employees who called in sick, 200 have reported fit for work and about 150 of the 331 crew that were on strike have now called in for work. It is expected to take until at least midweek before normal service can be resumed.



Game brains: the team behind MediEvil, the computer game developed by Millennium, which Sony plans to double in size

## Sony spends £6m on research base

By Jason Nisse

SONY, the Japanese electronics company, is to set up a research base with 100 employees in Cambridge to develop computer technology known as artificial life.

The move is a vote of confidence in the expertise of British computer programmers and follows last month's decision by Microsoft to spend £50 million developing a research centre in the area now being dubbed silicon fen.

Sony is spending around £6 million to buy Millennium, a

software development group based in Cambridge and jointly owned by Ian Santer and Michael Hayward.

This company, with 52 employees, will become Sony's Cambridge studio, which Sony plans to double in size during the next 18 months. As part of the deal, Sony is entering into a development agreement with CyberLife Technology, a company run by Mr Hayward, which is one of the world leaders in artificial life. This technology marries

artificial intelligence with the three-dimensional graphics used in computer games to create what are described as "virtual organisms".

"The creatures behave like a pet or a child," said Arif Malhotra, a programmer at CyberLife. "You can encourage what it does but you cannot make it do anything. The creature feels hungry, tired even bored or afraid."

The technology was developed for computer games and is now being applied more

widely. NCR, the US financial technology group, has hired CyberLife to model a virtual bank so that it can predict what sort of automated teller machines would be most popular with consumers.

Sony will now have two technology centres in the UK: it owns Paysonix, the games maker in Liverpool. "In the interactive games industry, the UK is where the creativity and talent is," said Juan Montes, vice president of software development at Sony.

## Discovery to launch themed retailers

By Eric Reguly

DISCOVERY Communications, the American documentary maker that has formed a \$500 million (£295 million) joint programming venture with the BBC, is to launch a chain of nature and science-themed retailers in Britain and continental Europe.

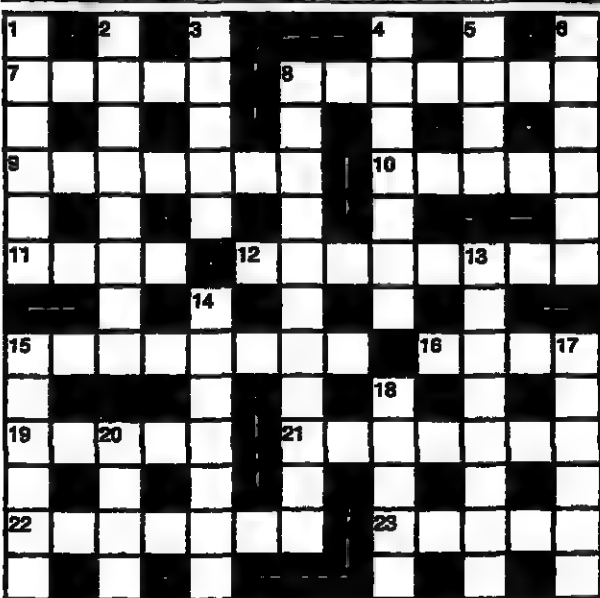
The effort stems from Discovery's purchase last year of the Nature Company stores in the US. The 134 stores will be recast as Discovery outlets, at a cost of up to \$300,000 per store, including the two at Heathrow and Gatwick.

John Hendricks, founder and chairman of Discovery, said additional Discovery stores will be built elsewhere in Britain, starting in London, and in continental Europe. "We feel we have reached the critical mass to justify the stores," he said.

The stores will carry products related to the Discovery Channel, the cable and satellite network that is available in more than 100 million homes in about 150 countries. BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, owns 20 per cent of the Discovery Channel in the US. Discovery Channel Europe, launched in 1999, is available in 12.5 million homes.

The Discovery channels, which draw a lot of their content from the BBC's libraries, carry a wide range of factual programming in the science, nature, adventure, history and exploration areas. Related products, from interactive CDs and models of dinosaurs to fossils and telescopes, and will be sold in Discovery stores. They probably will also contain BBC products, such as videos, CDs and books.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1145

- ACROSS
- Level of building; confound (5)
  - Gk. tragic hero; Freudian complex (7)
  - Flow of water (7)
  - A bank deposit (7.7)
  - Hooded jacket (5)
  - Spare; feeble (4)
  - Touched; insincere (8)
  - State with royal head (8)
  - Strand of cloud; of hair (4)
  - Prestige (5)
  - Narration (7)
  - Crane; drilling frame (7)
  - Anger (5)
- DOWN
- Remnant of sawing (6)
  - Forceful persuasion (5)
  - Move stealthily; abjectly (5)
  - Modified (7)
  - Box; pole; a mineral (4)
  - Land surrounded by water (6)
  - Very antiquated (3.2.3.3)
  - Court of justice (8)
  - Bismarck's state (7)
  - Manage with not enough (4.2)
  - Sporadic (6)
  - Look angry; menacing (5)
  - Repair potato (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1144

ACROSS: 1 Tempt 4 Wastrel 8 On the line 9 Bob 10 Tide 11 Retailer 13 Thread 14 Rob Roy 17 Modified 19 Rung 22 Log 23 Dolce vita 24 Stanley 25 Piece

DOWN: 1 Trout 2 Matador 3 Trek 4 Waiver 5 Sheraton 6 Rebel 7 Liberty 12 Daffodil 13 Tumulus 15 Routine 16 Henley 18 Dogma 20 Grave 21 Weep

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## EU law on work hours to cover extra six million

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union's law on maximum working hours is to be extended to nearly six million more workers under proposals to be endorsed tomorrow by the Commission.

In a move to "correct" the anomaly of extensive exemptions, Pádraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, wants the "working time directive" to embrace all workers, including lorry drivers, fishermen and junior hospital doctors. However, the mandated maximum 48-hour working week will be applied only to "non-mobile" workers.

The original directive, which excludes mainly workers in the transport industry, took force late last year after the Conservative administration lost an attempt to block it in the European Court. The Labour Party supported the law, which the Conservatives and industry leaders predicted would cost Britain more than £2 billion a year and damage its competitiveness.

The new proposals will offer a test for the new Government when it enters the EU's law-making machine. Tony Blair has fulfilled Labour's promise

to sign on to the social chapter, which is separate from the working time law, and support other efforts to improve employment conditions.

But he is also attempting to dampen the EU's ardour for further social law-making which, he says, could endanger the drive for a more flexible European labour market. French and other ministers are accusing Mr Blair of upholding British resistance to the "European social model".

The Irish commissioner, who became the Conservatives' *bête noire* over the working directive, is depicting his new draft as a step forward for "social Europe".

The main effect of the proposed new directive will be the application of the 48-hour maximum week and other provisions to all non-mobile workers. This would, for example, affect thousands in airline work, where 80 per cent of staff remain on the ground, according to the Commission.

All workers will be covered by the other provisions, which include a minimum of four weeks' paid annual leave, minimum rest periods and an annual limit to working hours.

A range of "derogations" will continue for a range of jobs such as shift workers in the health field, police and business executives. Workers in the offshore oil and gas industry will continue to be deemed "mobile". However, the aim of the law is to cover all sectors.

Junior doctors will no longer be excluded from the 48-hour rule, but there will be an arrangement in which their "on-call" hours are not all counted as working time.



The American entertainer Liza Minnelli singing at Roncalli Square near Cologne Cathedral at the weekend during an open-air concert attended by 6,000 fans

## Bureau fears revenge attack

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

RELATIVES of Mir Aimal Kansi, the Pakistani captured to face allegations that he shot dead two CIA employees outside the agency's headquarters in 1993, are considering a retaliatory strike against American interests, *Newsweek* magazine reports today.

Mr Kansi, who was on the FBI's "ten most wanted" list, was captured last month in Dera Ghazi Khan, on Paki-

stan's border with Afghanistan, by a joint team of American and Pakistani troops. He is detained in Fairfax County, awaiting trial for murder on November 3.

According to *Newsweek*, American intelligence agencies have picked up "solid information" that members of Mr Kansi's family are planning to hit back at American diplomatic missions or other

facilities in the region. The Kansi clan, a wealthy and influential group in the North-West Frontier, has apparently discussed the possibility of an attack on their home turf or in America.

An unnamed American official is quoted as saying: "This is an aggrieved family with a score to settle." The FBI is said to be "taking the tough talk seriously".

## FBI finds most of Chinese funding 'was legal'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE FBI appeared yesterday to undermine hearings into irregular fundraising for President Clinton's re-election by finding that most of the \$2 million (£1.2 million) which China employed to increase its influence was spent legally, according to investigators.

After months of allegations surrounding the Asian money trail leading to the White House, FBI agents said they had no evidence linking Beijing to illegal money that had been channelled into last year's elections in America. Most of the Chinese money had been spent on legal lobbying and invitations to Beijing for influential senators and others, according to *US News and World Report*.

An unidentified FBI official told the magazine that the Chinese added only \$200,000 to their existing ventures in the US last year and that less than half that amount went towards campaign contributions. This appeared to contradict separate reports that Louis Freeh, the FBI director, members of the CIA and the National Security Agency, had cleared a statement last week by Fred Thompson, the Republican senator who is chairing a Senate inquiry into irregular fundraising.

Mr Thompson, in a charge immediately denied by Beijing, said he had seen FBI evidence of China's efforts to influence US political campaigns.

At issue in the Senate inquiry, which continues today, is whether Mr Clinton and aides at the Democratic National Committee last year actively solicited and accepted contributions from foreign individuals and businesses, an offence under federal law.

Mr Thompson said yesterday that his statement, in which the Chinese were alleged still to be targeting both federal and state elections, was based on highly classified communications intercepts and had been made available to both Republican and Democratic members of the Senate governmental affairs committee.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Gang wars bring troops to Naples

Naples: The first 300 Italian troops have arrived here in response to a government decision to send in the military to help to quell a wave of violence between criminal clans. The Government said last week that it would send 500 soldiers to take over guard duties around Naples, freeing police to focus on stopping the mob violence that has swept the city.

The decision to send in troops was taken after two suspected members of the Camorra, the Naples version of the Mafia, were shot in broad daylight and a number of bystanders, including an eight-year-old girl, were injured in gunfights. About 86 people have been killed and dozens have been injured in territorial Camorra clashes since the beginning of the year. (Reuters)

## Demirel 'regrets' detentions

Ankara: President Demirel of Turkey expressed regret at the number of journalists imprisoned in the country at a meeting with a Western delegation of reporters seeking their release, the Anatolian news agency said.

"I am sorry that Turkey is the country with the highest number of journalists in prison," he said at a meeting with members of the Committee to Protect Journalists. The delegation was led by Terry Anderson, a former Associated Press reporter held hostage in Lebanon for seven years. At least 78 journalists are imprisoned in Turkey. (Reuters)

## Volcanic gases kill rangers

Tokyo: Three members of Japan's Self-Defence Force died and 18 others were ill, apparently poisoned by gas from a volcanic hot spring during a training exercise, a military spokesman said. The 23-man ranger unit was in forests on Hakko mountain on the northern tip of the main island of Honshu, around 400 miles northeast of Tokyo. "When others went to rescue them, they fell unconscious or found it difficult to breathe. But some of the group managed to radio for help," a spokesman said. (Reuters)

## Castro weeps for Che

Revolutionary hymns and military marches moved President Castro of Cuba to tears as the remains of the legendary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, right, were returned to Cuba yesterday (Gabriella Gamini writes). The remains, found recently in Bolivia by a scientific team, were flown to Santa Clara, where they will be laid to rest in a concrete mausoleum constructed in his honour after he was killed by Bolivian troops 30 years ago.



## Sierra Leone clashes kill 70

Freetown: Weekend clashes between Nigerian peacekeeping troops and Sierra Leone forces of the new military junta have left about 70 dead, witnesses said. According to military sources the fighting broke out on Saturday and was continuing yesterday. It centred on four villages about 18 miles east of here. Ten Nigerian soldiers and at least 60 civilians were reportedly killed in the clashes. (AFP)

## Aids victim eaten by dogs

New York: A man who died of Aids in his locked apartment in Manhattan was eaten by his own dogs, ravenous after several days without being fed (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Police broke in to find the body and the dogs, which are now likely to be put down.



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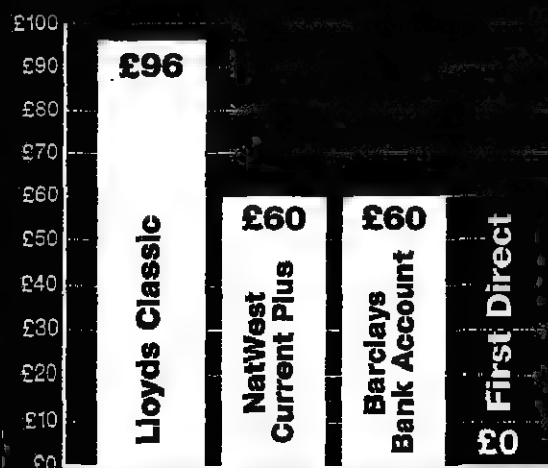
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# £194m 'missing' as Arafat seeks aid from Britain

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN GAZA

NEARLY half the Palestinian budget this year — \$320 million (£194 million) — has been lost to corruption or mismanagement, according to an internal Palestinian audit.

Details of the missing millions escaped the censorship imposed on the press and broadcasting outlets by Yasser Arafat as the Palestinian Authority's leader flew to meet Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, in London today to plead for more Western assistance. Britain is giving £25 million in aid this year.

The details followed reports of Mr Arafat's alleged personal slush fund in a Tel Aviv bank running to tens of millions of dollars. That was followed by an even more damning report by a watchdog group claiming that Palestinian officials have systematically abused their positions for personal financial gain.

Mr Arafat leaves behind a three-year-old self-rule authority riddled with corruption and brazen in its denial of democracy, having just indef-

initely postponed the first local elections for two decades. No where is the manipulation of funds more blatant than in the Rimal district of Gaza where many of the top 10,000 "Tunisian" bureaucrats and guerrillas who returned with Mr Arafat from the diaspora flaunt their glitzy lifestyle within smelling distance of the squalid Shati refugee camp.

Most resented by ordinary Gazans, whose per capita income has fallen nearly 40 per cent since the 1993 accord with Israel, is the grotesque new £2.5 million villa of Abu Mazen, Mr Arafat's No 2, chief negotiator of the Oslo deal.

With its profusion of balconies and balustrades, the gleaming residence has become the focus of resentment for the naked corruption of the new rulers. Graffiti declaring "this is your reward for selling Palestine" have been removed, but fear gripped my student guide when I tried to take a photograph. "Please, do not do that. We will both be shot," he said, accelerating his ram-

shackle car. Next door, still to be completed, is a similarly grandiose home being built for Umm Jihad, the most senior woman in the PLO, the widow of the former military chief, Abu Jihad, assassinated by the Israelis in Tunisia.

She had until recently been thought to be above the greed that has gripped most of Mr Arafat's cronies. But a would-be French biographer returned empty-handed after the Palestinian heroine demanded a huge cut of any royalties.

Not far from the tumble-down shacks of Shati, where the prevalent mood is one of despair mixed with seething resentment at the way in which the regime is prepared to display its unexplained wealth, is the new luxury seafood restaurant favoured by Suha Arafat and her British nanny on their trips back from shopping in Paris. It is aptly named Le Mirage.

Talk of graft, nepotism and the uncaring show of wealth by the powerful few — many patrons of the newly opened Zahra al-Madain (Flower of the Cities) beach resort and nightclub — dominates the street where the bulk of the million Gazans have become tired of waiting for the elusive "peace dividend".

Increasingly, people speaking in private predict a new uprising similar to the 1987-93 intifada against Israel which began in Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp. This time, so the whispers have it, the target could be the Palestinian Authority.

Hezbollah classic: Israeli troops wounded 16 Arabs, including five journalists, during clashes in Hebron yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). It was announced last night that Noam Friedman, the Israeli soldier who went on a random shooting spree on New Year's Day in Hebron, has been discharged from the army and will not face trial because he was mentally ill.



Arafat: reported to have amassed slush fund

## Pressure on Blair to take over peace role from America

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN will today plunge into a fresh round of Middle East peace initiatives, when Tony Blair sees Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, and Ehud Barak, the Israeli Opposition leader, separately at Downing Street.

The two men will urge the Government to give fresh impetus to the stalled peace process as Britain prepares to take over the presidency of the European Union. Officials said that the timing of the meetings was coincidental.

British officials expressed caution at the weekend over calls by Yossi Beilin, the Israeli opposition foreign affairs spokesman, for London to take over the role of intermediary from Washington. They said that only the United States had the necessary leverage to make its influence felt on both sides, and that Britain did not want to undercut the American role in persuading Mr Arafat and the Netanyahu Government to resume talks.

Mr Blair will urge continued restraint on Mr Arafat, regarded as the only man able

to contain Palestinian frustration and anger at the impasse in the peace negotiations.

Mr Arafat will tomorrow ask Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, to increase the £25 million annual British aid to the Palestinians, one of the biggest sums from overseas donors. But she will warn him that he must do more to account for the money given for Palestinian training and development.

Officials expressed concern at the weekend that large sums were being misappropriated and over Mr Arafat's handling of the Palestinian Authority's budget. There is worry about the lack of transparency, as well as suggestions that money may have been used to persuade Palestinian extremists not to unleash violence in the occupied territories.

Mr Arafat will hold talks with Derek Fatchett, the junior Foreign Office Minister responsible for the Middle East, who last week criticised Israel's new settlement at Har Homa in east Jerusalem.



Flying debris from Royal Canberra Hospital splashes into Lake Burley Griffin as yesterday's attempted demolition misfires disastrously

## Girl dies in botched Canberra demolition

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A GIRL was killed and several people were injured when thousands of spectators were showered by flying debris during a hospital demolition that went horribly wrong in Canberra.

More than 10,000 spectators had gathered to see the Royal Canberra Hospital flattened by a controlled implosion yesterday. But seconds after the blast bricks and metal flew about 500 yards across Lake Burley Griffin and into parkland where a crowd was

watching. At least seven people were hurt and scores of car windows smashed. The 12-year-old girl hit by shrapnel died in hospital. A man of 19 and another of 29 were seriously hurt.

The first sign of a problem came during an earlier blast which failed to demolish the building. Members of the demolition team went inside to investigate and another explosion followed, ripping out the supports of the hospital's main tower block but sending rubble flying into the lake.

Fifteen seconds later another blast sent debris flying across the water with

even greater force. Justin Harrigan, a television cameraman, said: "I just turned round and this girl was lying on the floor — it was just outrageous it could have been allowed to happen."

Another witness said: "It was just like it was raining rubble." Mounds of earth that had earlier been piled round the demolition site were supposed to contain the force of the blast.

A police spokesman said: "What should have been a controlled implosion turned into a violent explosion." Last night police indicated they could not rule out a criminal charge being

laid against the demolition company, Kate Carnell, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, which governs Canberra, said a 200-yard exclusion zone had been defined around the building.

None of the debris was expected to fly further than 50 yards, she said. "There was no indication whatever that this was even a possibility," she added after inspecting the area.

The hospital, which is not far from Parliament House, was being demolished to make way for a new national museum.

## Exiled Mobutu generals plot secessionist war in Katanga

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

FOUR generals loyal to Sese Seko Mobutu, the former Zaire leader, are planning to launch a rebel movement from South Africa. It was reported here yesterday.

The generals, who fled before Kinshasa fell to rebels in May, want to fight for the secession of the mineral-rich southern provinces.

General Baramoto, former head of the presidential guard, General Nzambi, General Vumbo and Admiral Marwa have begun plotting their campaign against the

new Government in the renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo from their new homes in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg's *Sunday Independent* reported that the men are funding their attempt to seize Katanga and Kasai provinces, partly from the sale of 32 million rands (£4 million) of cobalt illegally shipped out before they fled.

The generals apparently met the prospective leaders of the proposed National Front for the Liberation of Katanga in Johannesburg on Friday.



Mobutu: loyalists plan new war in the south

## Moi is denounced at cathedral 'cleansing'

FROM REUTER IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya was attacked by Anglican Archbishop David Gitari yesterday from the pulpit at Nairobi's All Saints Cathedral at a ceremonial "cleansing" and rededication after last week's riots. The archbishop told a packed congregation that Mr Moi had "been weighed in the balance and found wanting".

Riot police threw teargas into the cathedral and beat worshippers with batons when people fleeing a confrontation between demonstrators and police sought refuge there

last Monday. Senior police officials later publicly apologised for the invasion.

Holding aloft one of the teargas canisters hurled then, the archbishop said that rulers must be obeyed only as long as they did not infringe the rights of their people. "Blood cannot be shed in a holy place in vain. The Government must now put into motion constitutional reforms," he said.

Before the service, he led priests sprinkling holy water at bloodstained spots in the cathedral, including one where a person died.

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# Pattern in the chaos

A new theory shows close links between the regular and the random. **Marcus du Sautoy reports**

Scientists will gather in Cambridge next week to contemplate what must be one of the weirdest connections found so far in science. They have unearthed patterns which promise to link three of the great theories in physics and mathematics: quantum mechanics (the physics of the small-scale universe), chaos (the mathematics of unpredictability) and prime numbers (numbers that are divisible only by one and themselves).

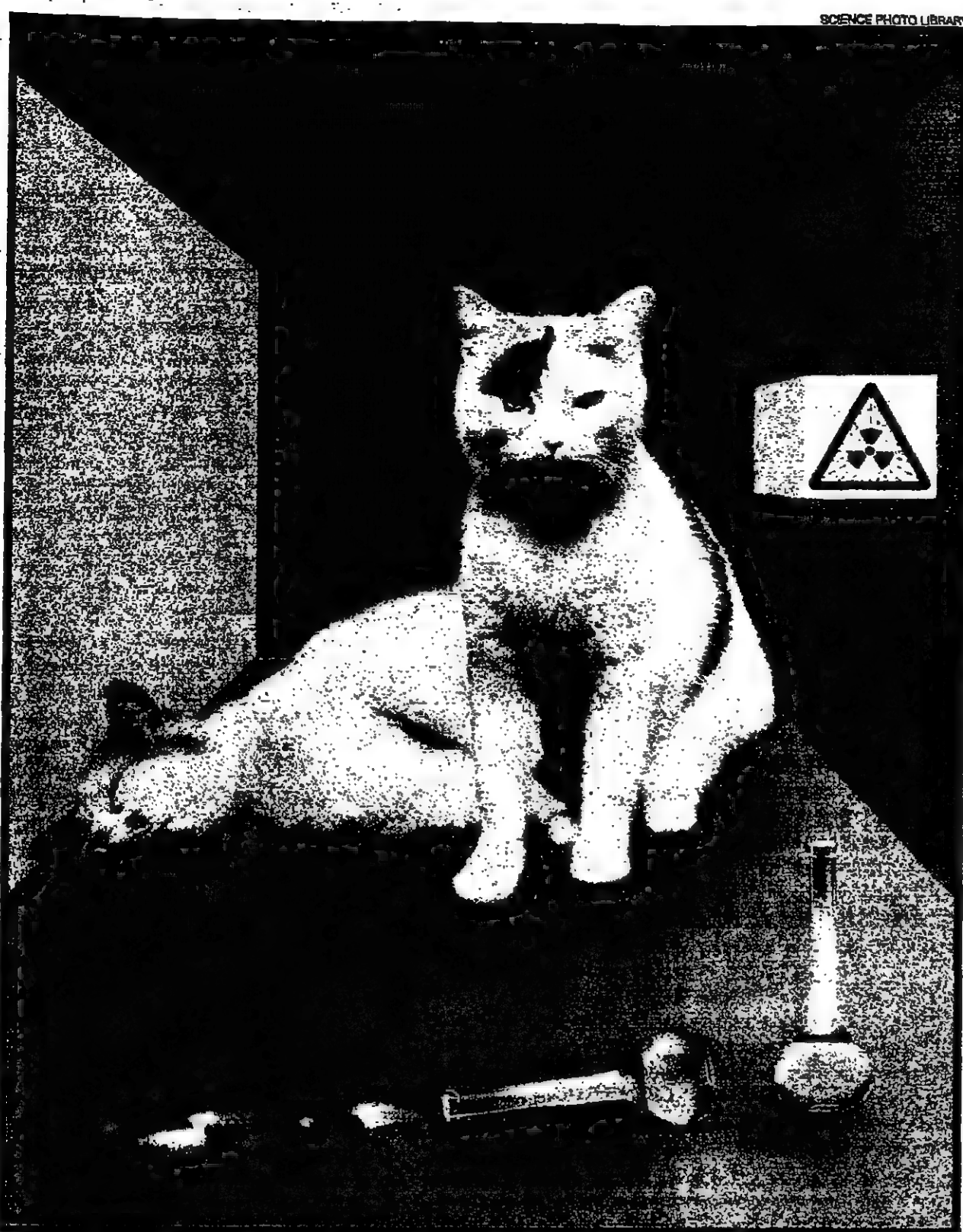
The scientists will be converging on the Newton Institute in Cambridge to try to crack this riddle — appropriate, since Newton's laws of motion give us both chaos and quantum physics.

Newton believed his laws would leave no surprises for history, as long as the initial state of each atom was known. But he could not predict everything. The first shock came in the early Twenties. Scientists found Newton's laws were very successful at describing the motion of large objects such as planets, but not small objects such as electrons. Physicists realised the laws were only an approximation to the real physics: quantum mechanics. This physics, of the very small, says that instead of treating the electron as a small billiard ball, we should think of it as a wave. In quantum physics we are not meant to be sure quite where the electron is: a wave gives us only a probability that the electron is in one place or another. The only way to turn the probability into a certainty is to look for the electron. Once we make the observation, the die is cast.

Perhaps the most bizarre manifestation of quantum mechanics is Schrödinger's cat, a thought experiment. Imagine a cat being placed in a box. Inside the box there is a radioactive source with a 50-50 chance of decaying. If it does, decay, poison gas is released and the cat dies. However, not until someone looks, quantum physicists say, does the radioactive source have to "decide" whether it has decayed or not. So the act of looking seals the cat's fate.

However, our world is dictated by large-scale laws and the unpredictability of the very small gets smoothed out. But even at this scale, there are some surprises. Laws such as Newton's may be simple, but they can still produce results that look chaotic.

The classic example is the



Fatal move: Schrödinger's cat theory illustrates the probable state of particles, altered when they are observed

Mandelbrot set, the Paisley design adopted by Eighties rave culture. The fantastically complicated image is actually generated by a very simple formula. Another example is the motion of billiard balls, which sometimes map out a regular path — though, as players know, the path of a billiard ball seems chaotic.

The connection between prime numbers, chaos and quantum mechanics emerged from trying to discover what happens when two of these worlds — chaos and quantum mechanics — collide. The borderland between them is the realm of quantum chaos — still an enigma.

Quantum chaos affects things such as electrons,

which are large enough to participate in the large-scale Newtonian universe but small enough to gatecrash the small-scale quantum universe, too. So, an electron can behave either as one of Newton's billiard balls — following a regular or chaotic path — or a quantum wave.

The central question is, does this quantum wave change depending on whether the electron's billiard ball path is regular or chaotic? The answer is yes, but it runs counter to intuition.

If the billiard ball follows a regular path, then the quantum wave looks like the curve you would get by plotting the

heights of a random group of people. There are no disallowed heights. Yet, if the path is chaotic, this randomness disappears. In the curve of people's heights, big gaps appear. It is as if people have been chosen because their heights are widely spaced.

In terms of the small-scale universe, contrary to expectation, a pattern suddenly appears when the electron is behaving chaotically. Explaining this phenomenon will be one of the key tasks for the scientists arriving next week.

But there is an extra twist to the story. Joining the Cambridge effort are mathematicians who have been chasing patterns in the prime numbers. These indivisible numbers are the atoms of arithmetic and the building blocks of all numbers. Mathematicians love to look for patterns and the primes probably offer the ultimate challenge. When you read a list of prime numbers they look a mess, with no rhythm to the way they are distributed.

The involvement of these mathematicians began with a chance meeting in the common room at Princeton University between Professor Freeman Dyson, a quantum physicist, and Professor Hugh Montgomery, a mathematician. Professor Montgomery showed Professor Dyson some of the patterns he had observed among the prime numbers. Professor Dyson had

observed identical patterns in the physics of quantum chaos — in the curve of people's heights, with those inexplicable gaps.

Further research by Dr Andrew Odlyzko at AT&T Laboratories, overwhelmingly supports the similarity between these patterns. Such connections drive scientists crazy with excitement, especially when there is no reason to suspect a connection. Speculation is snowballing that there may be some quantum chaotic phenomenon that somehow holds the key to the pattern, or music, of the primes.

Sir Michael Berry, from Bristol University, has recorded the music, or rhythm, of the first 40,000 prime numbers. He says: "If these patterns are confirmed we can say about it what George Bernard Shaw said about Wagner: 'This music is better than its sounds'."

The connections, though observed, have yet to be proved definitively. But they have been a powerful tool. Mathematicians and physicists have been pooling their knowledge to uncover more information about both primes and quantum chaos. It would be a very strange thing indeed if prime numbers eventually resulted from crossing Mandelbrot and Schrödinger.

The writer is a Royal Society Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics, Cambridge, and a Fellow of All Souls.

□ Bullion trail □ Baby talk □ Larval lights

## Stolen gold leaves its fingerprints

An analytical technique designed to identify stolen gold has finally destroyed the anonymity of man's favourite precious metal. Now any piece of gold, however small, can be traced back to the mine from which it came.

The method has the potential to trace the history of ancient gold artefacts, and identify the trading routes by which the gold reached its destination.

The inspiration for developing this technique was theft. Every year, South African goldminers lose an unknown amount of gold, spirited out in tiny quantities by the thousands of men who work down the mines. The police recover about a ton a year — but this is probably only a small fraction of what goes missing. Even so, the mining companies found it frustrating that they could not authenticate the ownership of even the small amounts of gold that were recovered, which then became state property.

The research laboratories of Anglo-American (AARL), whose mines produce 40 per cent of South African gold, set out to produce a method of "fingerprinting" gold, using mass spectroscopy.

"We knew our mines were losing gold, but we couldn't prove it," says Jim Timilty, managing director of the laboratories. "The high sensitivity of mass spectroscopy was the answer."

A laser vaporises a tiny speck of gold, too small to be detected by the naked eye. It is carried by a stream of argon gas into the mass spectrometer, which separates the sample into a mixture of atoms of the different elements present.

The bulk, clearly, is gold; but traces of 131 different isotopes of 58 elements can also be



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

detected and displayed as a spectrum. The AARL team found that these spectra could be matched exactly to the mine from which the gold came, and even to the individual shaft within that mine.

The method has many potential applications. Mr Timilty explains. "If you find grains of alluvial gold in a stream, the assumption is that they all come from the same source. Then, if you find that source and it isn't worth exploiting, you give up. But our method might show that there was more than one source, so that it would be worthwhile to look harder."

The archaeological implications go even wider. Already work has begun in South Africa on gold artefacts from sites dated to the period AD 1000-1300, and the next project will be to examine gold in the National Museum in Cape Town that came from Cecil Rhodes's collection. Some of these fragments originated at Great Zimbabwe, the pre-colonial city that gave its name to the country once named after Rhodes. The results are likely to show that there were complex patterns of trading in Africa long before the white man arrived.

Some early African gold may have found its way to Europe. Once the characteristic signatures of old gold sources have been identified, it should be possible to trace the origins of, say, Edward IV gold coins, the mask of Tutankhamun, or "King Priam's gold", discovered by Heinrich Schliemann in his search for Troy.

It seems possible that the method may yet reveal that some of the priceless objects on display in the world's top museums are, in fact, fakes.

## Why children make the best linguists



BRAIN scans may have revealed why it is harder for an adult to learn a second language than it is for a child.

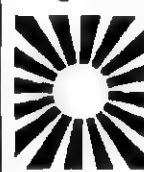
Researchers in New York have shown that if the second language is learnt at the same time as the first one, it is stored in the same region of the brain, in the part of the frontal lobe known as Broca's area.

If the second language is learnt later, it is still stored in Broca's area, but separated slightly from the first language. It is as if learning the first language has set the circuit in Broca's area, and so the second language must be accommodated elsewhere.

The research, carried out by a team led by Dr Joy Hirsch of Cornell University and published in *Nature*, used magnetic resonance imaging to establish the precise regions of the brain used by bilingual people. In those who learnt both languages as children, the two appear to lie almost on top of one another in the brain, while those who learnt the second as adults have the two languages lying alongside each other.

The findings suggest, the authors say, that the age of language acquisition may be a significant factor in determining how part of the brain is organised. Infants start by being equally able to recognise all relevant sounds, but as they learn their native tongue the way it is represented in Broca's area becomes fixed.

## Flashing lights that say don't eat me



ADULT fireflies glow to attract mates. But why do sexually immature firefly larvae do it? On the face of it, the activity seems to have little point, and runs the risk of advertising the presence of a tasty meal to any passing predator.

Now a team led by the entomologist Dr Douglas Tallamy, of the University of Delaware, has found that the flashing light is probably a warning signal. The message it sends is designed to discourage predators by reminding them that the last time they tasted a firefly larva it tasted awful.

Dr Tallamy and his colleagues tried to encourage mice to eat firefly larvae. They wouldn't, probably because the larvae contain bitter compounds. So he set up an experiment, reported in the *Journal of Insect Behaviour*, in which mice were tempted to eat pieces of cereal placed at either end of a maze. One piece was made bitter with quinine sulphate and mustard powder, and brightly illuminated. The other was much pleasanter to eat, but was in the dark.

At first the mice went for the brightly lit food, but soon learnt. This suggests that the larvae's glow would be enough to alert a predator and warn it off. "A flashing neon sign may lure hungry humans to an all-night diner," he says. "But the bioluminescence of firefly larvae sends a very different message to would-be predators."

'Newton believed his laws would leave no surprises'

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# Beer, bourbon, bonding: how to be a real man

Males are fighting back with a new bestseller, says Giles Whittell

Todd von Hoffman is six foot three and enjoys ripping plaster off old tenement buildings in downtown LA. It's brutal, manly work. It tones his pectorals and earns wolf whistles, but for a big man with a young family it doesn't always pay the bills.

Last year, therefore, he wrote a proposal for a book about manliness and sent it in a cigar box, with a bottle of tequila, to a publisher he knew. The publisher called back the same day to make a deal. Earlier this year the *Big Damn Book of Sheer Manliness* hit bookstores across America and within two weeks its initial print run of 50,000 heavy hardback copies had practically sold out.

The book has lots of useful advice on tying "woolly bugger" fishing flies, cooking vats of "colon-cleaner chili" and finding your way from Las Vegas to the nearest legal brothel. The von Hoffmans' idea of a real man (Todd and his brother Brant ended up as co-authors) loves golf, plays cards and talks long into the night about epic action movies. He is also much more likely to be a doting father

than a faithful husband. He is, in short, not unlike Bill Clinton.

Can this be so? The draft-dodging President with the allegedly roving eye as an incarnation of manliness? Yet when the Supreme Court ruled that Paula Jones could sue him for allegedly exposing himself to her in a hotel room six years ago, a CNN poll showed his job approval rating rose. Another poll on the eve of Father's Day showed that 81 per cent of Americans applauded him as a father.

Real men, it seems, can get away with fooling around as long as they're good dads. The von Hoffmans are adamant about this. Irresponsible parents "are beneath contempt and invite the revocation of their procreative parts", they write.

Like much American talk radio, the *Big Damn Book of Sheer Manliness* is riding a backlash against the bend-over-backwards language of political correctness that calls a manhole a personhole and seems to blame society for every individual's faults. The book also taps into the last great American neurosis — that of the bewildered necktie,



Tony Curtis and Laurence Olivier in the Hollywood epic *Spartacus*, "the manliest film of all time"

a creature left feeling rudderless and underappreciated by the din of women's rights and ethnic empowerment.

The fightback began a while ago. Ever since Bruce Fierstein's huge success with *Real Men Don't Eat Quiche* in 1982, American males have hungered for advice on how to act their gender. In the Nineties that hunger has been acute. Iron John, Robert Bly's

paean to man-to-man hugger, was seen as an emergency rescue manual for fully half the nation. Then the militant Muslim Louis Farrakhan persuaded enough black men to fill the Washington Mall that by celebrating their maleness as well as their colour they would become better people. A Christian group called the Promise Keepers has been while been filling stadiums

with the only family leaders they claim can heal the country's social ills — men.

Finally, on sale alongside the von Hoffmans' book, there is *To Be A Man*, by Charlton Heston. This mini-memoir is interspersed with the great actor's grumblings on the present state of things. His chief gripe is that minorities have created "far too many groups in America" each shouldering the others' aside, screaming for special attention, separate identity, to have their disparate diseases moved up in the chain for special funding. Mr Heston may be right. The irony is that his book goes one more step towards defining men as yet another failing social group in need of help — which is where the von Hoffmans brothers come in. Unlike other self-appointed masculinity gurus, their thrust is practical. Their concern is for the outer, not the inner man. Maleness is more fun than ever, their dust jacket proclaims.

The chief duty of a wife is not to object when her husband goes on fishing trips.

Brother Todd admits — sheepishly — to being married and monogamous. He even owns up to an unmanly past career as a talent agent, but then returns gruffly to the more virile subject of colitis. Real men should feel free to use prostitutes, he insists. The book recommends the legal ones at the Chicken Ranch, 60 miles west of Las Vegas, where monthly blood tests are mandatory.

Wisely, the *Big Damn Book* recalls the era of the actress Vera Miles, when, as she put it, "men were men and women were grateful". Those were the days when a politician's dalliances could be kept discreetly from the public eye, but they are gone. Clinton may not know it, but the von Hoffmans do. When they turned a recent book-signing into a "guyathon" complete with a bra-undressing contest, they used mannequins.

Women hardly feature except as the bearers of children

The result is a book that makes being a man sound very like being an obnoxious kid. It's all about jack knives, spud guns, salt steak, sour mash bourbon and the fine art of yanking down other people's trousers. It's about trailing a chest of cool Bud as you float down the upper Missouri in an inner tube, knocking back bullshots made with bouillon cubes and vodka.

Real men should know what Humphrey Bogart called his yawl — *Santana*. They should be aware of at least 126 synonyms for breasts, and twice as many for their own most vital organ.

And so to sex, which men must have — one way or another. Interestingly, homophobia is banned from the *Big Damn Book's* gleeful celebration of arrested development. In one passage, its authors tackle a famous homoerotic seduction scene that appeared only in the director's cut of *Spartacus*: "the manliest film of all time". For Tony Curtis and Laurence Olivier to agree to film it "took incredible brass back in 1960", they write.

But is real homosexuality manly? Todd von Hoffman dodges the question by paraphrasing John Wayne, who apparently felt that "you and I and the government should stay the hell out of people's pants unless we're invited".

Women hardly feature in this vision of manliness, except as the respected bearers of children: "As far as the [baby] manufacturing process goes," von Hoffman writes, "while we are in awe of women for possessing this greatest of gifts, we're also happy as hell with our end of

## 'Don't get even — get everything'

Brian Vine reports on the divorce suit that tops them all

"I DON'T have \$100 million (£60 million), not even half that," says Gary Wendt, the much vilified titan of American finance who is the target of his scorned wife of 31 years, Lorna, in a landmark divorce trial.

"She couldn't stand me replacing her with a woman ten years her senior," he adds, only partly joking.

Certainly, Lorna Wendt appears to have adopted as her personal motto the advice of the abandoned spouses in the hit movie *The First Wives Club*: "Don't get even, get everything."

A notoriously tough breed, even the ladies who lunch blanched when they heard Lorna had turned down her husband's final divorce settlement offer of \$8.5 million (\$14 million). Lorna wanted to make history, and repair her dignity and self-esteem, with a deal that no divorce lawyer in the US or Europe has contemplated.

She wants a judge to award her not only the millions Gary had offered, but also her lawyer's estimate of 50 per cent of his future riches. Her goal is a total of \$30 million.

Gary, 54, sighs deeply. Normally an ebullient, decisive workaholic, he admits to feeling confused, frustrated and astonished by her "into the future" claim.

As chief executive of GE Capital, the financial services arm of the aero-engines-to-toasters giant General Electric, he is used to getting his own way.

So he is obviously not a man from whom you expect to hear loose talk. But, he explains, "my shrewd and clever wife" has prompted him to break cover and speak candidly for the first time.

What he has to say is quite a mouthful in countering her campaign to paint herself as the perfect "corporate wife" and partner in his success.

Fashions in matrimonial law such as palimony, which began in the US, often make their way across the Atlantic. Wendt is conscious that if, next month, his wife is handed half his future earnings by the divorce judge in the State Superior Court at Stamford, Connecticut, the "unseemly circus" that the case has made of their conservative, grey-flannel-suited lives might spread to disenchanted British wives.

Muzzled in court by a mutual legal agreement, now expired, that neither spouse should apportion blame for the breakdown of

the marriage after three decades and two daughters, Gary now tells of his "dreadful unhappiness" at home.

To the judge and the fascinated American public Mrs Wendt was portrayed as the devoted corporate wife and hostess, a counterpoint to his social ineptness, a partner who soothed, nurtured and kept him in a mental condition to handle his rocketing career.

In a voice temporarily bereft of anger, Gary Wendt remembers things differently. "The whole thing's a fabrication," he contends.

"If anything, she was a reluctant corporate wife, refused to have parties at home, except the Christmas party which was organised by the company. She actively tried to get me to spend less time at work.

The only events she was interested in were the fancy trips, glamorous parties or glitzy restaurants. As for soothing and nurturing me, she and I had to go to marriage counsellors three times in the past ten years. None of them could do anything to repair things between us. The last psychologist I consulted told me that my unhappy state was directly caused by my home life.

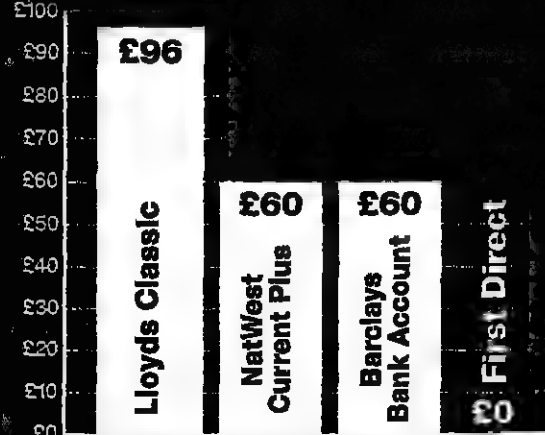
"When I made my final \$14 million settlement offer, I discovered that my deposition, which I believed was confidential, had been sent to a national newspaper. As a result, I withdrew my enhanced offer."

"THE IRONY is that I allowed her free access to all my bank accounts and credit cards until after the trial and from bank statements I can see I have paid 500,000 dollars (£300,000) for her divorce lawyers."

Somewhat, he expresses his belief that "her divorce is not about a legal principle, it's about revenge". Gary's svelte companion, Rosemarie Adams, is a divorced grandmother of 64 who looks 20 years younger. "I have found true happiness with Rosemarie, but I think being left for an older woman was too much for my wife to take."

Lorna has now become a new heroine to feminists for her determination to stand up to an alleged chauvinist. But her husband remains doubtful of her new status. "This isn't an unfair divorce. She gave the impression in court that she was after the rights of women everywhere. Perhaps, she does now have a career — women's rights."

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مكة امنه الاصل







# Must we learn to hate Norman Mailer?

I think not. Although there is a longer argument here, the work must stand aside from the life. It can be mixed up with it for the enjoyment of biography, but in the end it is something else. It belongs to a different category. The work is not the property of the life but finally a gift to our common imagination.

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**“I love him as a bloke and I love his thrill for the art.”**



## New tunes fall on deaf ears



# Don't play dumb with Radio 4

Michael Gove gives warning of the dangers of populism

It is a perfect talking point for the chattering classes, the sort of issue which would be ideal for *Start the Week*. What is the right balance for a publicly funded body between defending the public interest and responding to market pressures?

The BBC upholds its right to be funded by a regressive tax on the basis that it provides a service the market could not. Keeping the licence fee, however, depends on keeping a significant slice of the audience in an ever-more competitive broadcasting market. If Melvyn and his guests do, however, want to chew over the dilemma, they had better clear the running order quickly. From next April *Start the Week* will go the way of *Stop the Week*, dropped by a corporation that seems increasingly to prefer chat to conversation, the trivial to the testy serious.

The Controller of Radio 4, James Boyle, is planning the biggest overhaul the station has endured since the days of the crystal set. The BBC's executive management committee has endorsed a series of changes which will see *The Moral Maze* lost in the graveyard slot, *Yesterday in Parliament* guillotined and specialist programmes such as *Science Now* and *Medium Wave* also disappearing.

Mr Boyle is not engaging in a head-long flight from the serious. *Today* will be extended, and it is hard to see the demise of *You and Yours* as a defeat for Reithian virtues. The big picture, however, is depressing. Mr Boyle seems intent on making his station pander to niches rather than speak confidently to One Nation. Altering the prime slot between nine and ten by introducing more "accessible" programmes aimed at younger listeners takes the station further from its best traditions. Commissioning a mid-morning soap opera tramples on them.

Mr Boyle may imagine his changes are necessary to attract new listeners. He certainly faces stiffer competition than any of his predecessors. His reforms are, however, likely only to alienate his station's loyalists without luring others. Radio 4 occupies a unique position in British broadcasting as a serious speech station and attempts to move downmarket will only shrink its share of the market.

Mr Boyle seems to want a station biased against understanding. I am biased myself — having worked on *Today*, I am sentimental about the new — but my reaction to his reforms is based more on my lack of experience of the world than the nature of my experience in the BBC.

Still shy of 30, a fan of *Oasis* and Irvine Welsh, as likely to be watching *TFI Friday* as *Newsnight* and as happy reading *Loaded* as *Prospect*, I am, despite myself, the object of Mr Boyle's affections. It is younger, more commercially promiscuous listeners such as me that Mr Boyle wants to attract to Radio 4. I do not, however, want Radio 4 run by

the oldest swinger in town. I, and I suspect many of my generation of twenty and thirtysomethings, want the BBC to continue to provide the challenging and authoritative broadcasting we grew up with. Why should the BBC dumb down when the country is smartening up? With more than a third of school-leavers going on to university the market for, dare one say it, intellectual programming is increasing.

Even if the BBC were interested only in audience share then logic should dictate a move upmarket, or at least digging in on the commanding heights of the media industry. The BBC is not, however, just another media conglomerate and if it moves from its roots it will find itself unmoored. If the BBC does not vigorously live up to its public service role, then public support for its poll tax will evaporate further.

Programmes such as *Start the Week* provide an oasis of civilised conversation on airwaves dominated by the inane, a salon surrounded by zoos. The programme has its faults. It normally boasts more plugs than *Dixon's* and Melvyn Bragg's pugnacity can wear, but it has played an important part in British cultural life. Bragg is the C.P. Snow of our time, a novelist whose championing of science has done much to break down intellectual barriers — between the arts and sciences and between the academy and the public.

Radio is a medium made for discussion and the disappearance of *Start the Week* would leave the BBC woefully short of intelligent people the chance to share their intelligence with the rest of us. Broadcasting executives find the thought of a studio filled with talking heads discussing ideas hopelessly démodé but there is a public appetite for tough meat. The warm reception enjoyed by BBC2's revival of *The Brains Trust* showed there was an audience for the allegedly inaccessible. It is a sad reflection on the corporation that the series has not been recommissioned.

It is not as though the rest of the channel's output is unashamedly elitist. Documentaries at the BBC, with the odd exception, such as *The People's Century*, seem long ago to have disclaimed any didactic role and opted for a voyeurism more hole-in-the-wall than fly-on-the-wall. Radio 4 has, however, held the line over the years. On those occasions when controllers have found audience figures declining, it has, generally, been because they neglected the Ivory towers. Past experiments in populism, from *Citizens to Anderson Country*, sat in the schedules like Orangemen at Mass, uncomfortable and unpopular. If Mr Boyle wishes to avoid their fate he should listen to the listeners and make his changes organic and his programmes serious.

When foxhunters and gay rights campaigners took to the streets, they were demanding the same freedoms

There is always some sharp comment on current affairs to be found in Johnson's *Dictionary*. He would have given only cold comfort to the crowds of country people who assembled in Hyde Park last week. He defines "fox hunter" as "a man whose chief ambition is to show his bravery in hunting foxes. A term of reproach used of country gentlemen". Indeed, his definition of "fox" is rather more sympathetic: "A wild animal of the canine kind, with sharp ears, and a bushy tail, remarkable for his cunning, living in holes, and preying upon fowls or small animals." What a pictorial definition that is from a man so shortsighted he could scarcely see a foot in front of his nose.

There were two great demos in London last week, one of them in favour of field sports, the other in favour of gay pride. The gay demo did more to tie up the traffic, but I think the field sports was the larger. There must have been some people who joined both, but I did not see on television any banners which read "gays in favour of foxhunting" or, for that matter, "foxhunters in favour of gay pride".

This cannot be because there are no people of homosexual temperament to be found in the hunting field. I am not a hunting person. Indeed, I have only once ridden a horse, an ancient white Arab mare which took me down the delf to the horse remains of Petra; I got on the horse successfully, but found I did not know how to dismount, and tumbled clumsily onto the sand of the desert.

Yet even I know that there are bowled-chested ladies of martial appearance who are among the most determined followers of the hound, and handsome cavalry officers whose sexual interests are those of the great Lord Kitchener. At least there used to be these persons, and I cannot believe

# Life, liberty and the hunt for happiness

that such well-established hunting types have altogether disappeared. Nor should they be criticised by the heterosexual hunting community. I have known few people of warmer hearts, shrewder judgment or stronger courage than tough-minded whisky-drinking lesbians of a certain age.

The two demos should have amalgamated, since they assert what is essentially the same point: that people should not be punished by the State because other people find their activities distasteful. Anti-hunting people have every right to their opinions, though there is a moral inconsistency in people who denounce hunting over plates of roast lamb, peas, mint sauce and new potatoes.

It is no more agreeable for a lamb to go to the slaughterhouse than for a fox to be killed by hounds, and carnivorous anti-hunting folk may fairly be regarded as hypocrites. If they do not accept that, let them spend half a day in a slaughterhouse and see how well the next slice of saddle of lamb goes down their throats.

Equally, one should accept the right of people to preach against homosexual practices. The Christian churches have always taught, as does the Old Testament, that sex outside marriage is wrong, that fornication is wrong, that adultery is wrong, that homosexual conduct is wrong. That

is the orthodox Christian doctrine, whether one agrees with it or not.

Christianity is, in this sense, a homophobic, adulterophobic and fornicophobic religion. This traditional Christian doctrine requires absolute control of sexual conduct, and does not shy away from celibacy. When I was young, most gay old clergy were celibate. If sometimes sentimental, as were most gay schoolmasters, I do not think they were less happy for having made that choice, but no doubt some were.

William Rees-Mogg

A Christian, who is prepared to live by the Christian doctrine, can, without hypocrisy, advise other people to live by it for their own good. The Christian can urge very strongly that adultery breaks up marriages, and broken marriages damage children's lives. Adultery is therefore a moral wrong which spreads damage through society.

So long as children are not involved, simple fornication and homosexual conduct are only self-damaging, though homosexual liaisons in effect become adulterous

where, as is quite often the case, one of the partners is married.

Yet Christians do not have the right to regulate by law the sexual conduct of other people who hold other views. Subject to the protection of minors, sexual conduct, which we know to be extremely variable, should be a matter for individuals so far as the law is concerned. Where coercion has been attempted, as in the laws against adultery in 17th-century New England, that has proved arbitrary, ineffective and cruel. Yet adultery, because of the damage it does to children, is a sexual conduct which society has most reason to discourage.

Most of this argument is now commonplace, though it would not have been accepted 50 years ago. There is still a difficulty about practising homosexual clergy, which is causing much heart-searching in the Church of England. I can see no reason to distinguish between them and heterosexual clergy pursuing an extramarital affair.

If a clergyman enjoys a love nest with a quiet woman in Woking, that is no business of the *New of the World*, or even of his parishioners and bishop; provided he causes no scandal. But if he rides around with a local blonde teenager on the back of his motorcycle, he makes it impossible for his parishioners to turn a blind eye.

"Don't ask, don't tell" has the

wisdom of charitable cowardice. On the other hand, no clergyman can successfully preach Christian doctrine while publicly living outside it. Hypocrisy may well be preferable to scandal.

The hunting and the sexual issues raise the same moral question. When are we entitled to impose our personal morality on other people's lives? Sometimes we should do so. I have a morality which says that it is wrong to kill people. I support the law against murder. Yet these cases all seem to have a social justification; the prohibited act does harm to someone else, against their will.

Hunting and sodomy do no obvious harm except to the foxes and the sodomites; the human participants do not see the consequences as harmful, but consider them both pleasurable and psychologically liberating. Of course, if other people are involved then they must be protected, even from minor consequences. Sexual acts should not be performed in public, huntsmen should not leave gates open. But when adults give consent, and the activity does not harm third parties, the principle must be one of freedom from legal restraint.

Of course, foxes are not able to give their informed consent to being hunted. Vegetarians can argue that we should not use animals for our own purposes; that means no milk, no meat, no fish, no eggs, and it also means no foxhunting. Yet we are not a vegan society, about to throw out our shoes and go everywhere in carpet slippers. That being so, the Locke and Jefferson doctrine is the sound one; the foxhunter and the homosexual are equally entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"; in each case, people must define their own happiness, not have the State define it for them.

# Remember 1945 and all that

The Blair honeymoon can't last for ever, says

Peter Riddell

Normal politics is in suspension at present. The Blair Government is not only able to do what it wants, but it also enjoys a large fund of public goodwill. Criticisms just bounce off. It is too good to be true and there will be a reaction, probably an overreaction, before long. Those who are most enthusiastic now will be among the most critical then.

I am temperamentally suspicious of these sharp swings of mood, believing that nothing in politics is ever either as good or as bad as the zealots pretend. That overfamiliar, recently repeated, line of Wordsworth, "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive", was, after all, written about that most violent of events, the French Revolution, by a self-described "enthusiast".

Yet for all my scepticism about grandiose political claims, the general election did reflect a widespread shift in the national mood, which has continued. Peter Mandelson, ever an acute reader of public opinion, writes in the current *Fabian Review* that "a deep yearning for change and the sense of relief, of something being lifted from the national consciousness, is still tangible". His argument that the public wants the new Government to be given a fair wind is not just partisan special pleading.

The opinion polls give Tony Blair, his Government and the Budget record ratings, while the Tories' decision to hold the Uxbridge by-election on July 31 is more to get a likely defeat out of the way quickly than in expectation of holding the seat.

The closest parallel is the Labour landslide of 1945. Then, too, there was a sense of a new beginning, the



"annus mirabilis" of 1945-46 when 84 Bills were enacted establishing much of the welfare state and nationalising most of the utilities and the Bank of England.

Labour MPs, including a vast army of new Members, accepted that their duty was to implement, not to question, Labour's programme, a duty expressed in similar terms then by Herbert Morrison as now by his grandson, Mr Mandelson. It was near the end of that honeymoon period, in April 1946, that Sir Hartley Shawcross uttered his often misquoted words that: "We are the masters at the moment — and not only for the moment, but for a very long time to come."

There is more than a touch of such ministerial arrogance around now. For all Labour's promises about opening up Whitehall and consulting

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

more about legislation, the Government's 38 policy reviews are mainly being conducted in secret, while the Budget is being rushed into law with inadequate discussion with those affected. The Government, of course, knows that it can get away with such high-handedness. No one is listening to the critics, least of all to Tory MPs, who are largely irrelevant to the main political debate.

The Blair Government has made a confident start, even if the big events so far, the Amsterdam summit and the Budget, now look less like the triumphs they were first claimed to be. But no one any longer talks about the most inexperienced Administration for more than 70 years. Tony Blair has himself shown a sure touch

as Prime Minister, and his ministers have been self-disciplined, so far, not least out of fear of what might happen if they step out of line.

Admittedly, at least one Cabinet minister, and two or three outside, are widely reckoned to be out of their depths. But these shortcomings and the inevitable differences over policy — for instance, over devolution — have not yet made much public impact.

The Government has adopted a sensible approach on policy — pressing ahead where it had clear ideas before the election, such as allowing the Bank of England to set interest rates (an ironic reversal of the first Bill in 1945), improving standards in schools and the Welfare to Work package, while initiating its multitude of reviews in other areas.

Of course, as more policy emerges, more enemies will be made. Pension funds and international companies are already worried about aspects of the Budget. The shift — not the Middle England that Labour won on May 1 — have demonstrated against the Bill to ban foxhunting, though this is a Private Member's measure which stands virtually no chance of becoming law this session. This issue was also fiercely debated in the late 1940s but a ban was resisted by Tom Williams, the Minister of Agriculture, on the ground that foxhunting assisted food production, and by trade union MPs who pointed out that hunting was popular in rural mining areas.

The Attlee Government's honeymoon ended in the harsh winter of 1946-47 because of the energy and economic crises. The Blair Government's problem is the opposite: rather than shortages and austerity, it faces a consumer and housing boom.

Gordon Brown is now being attacked by some in the City for not being restrictive enough, though before the Budget few of his critics were advocating the scale of tax increases he introduced. Both fiscal policy and the strong pound point to a slowdown within the next two years. The squeeze on exporters is likely to reverse the declining trend in unemployment. That will really test the Government's popularity.

Similarly, as the Liberal Democrats have pointed out, the Government's public spending plans are tighter in real terms than those they inherited, even after the Budget increases for health and schools. This is because of the rise in inflation. The comprehensive spending review needs to find some big savings, and not just pie-in-the-sky ones on welfare. If standards of public services are to be maintained, let alone improved.

Normal politics will resume within, I guess, 12 months. Meanwhile, ministers should ponder Hugh Dalton's diary entry for Thursday, June 27, 1946: "I am riding just now on a high tide of success. I must, therefore, cautiously watch my step." Within 18 months, he had been forced to resign.

# Stir crazy

MEMBERS of the British secret service based at the M15 offices at Horseferry Road, Millbank, might be excused for ignoring the occasional tortured scream echoing from the basement's murky depths. But on Thursday evening the desperate pleas emanating from the building's subterranean bowels were those of Labour Co-op MP Don Touhig, who had found himself imprisoned on the premises with no means of escape.

Touhig, Member for Islwyn, and parliamentary aide to Gordon



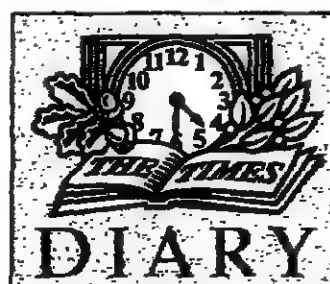
Don Touhig, locked in

Brown, had been at a reception, hosted by Mo Mowlam, at the Northern Ireland Office, which shares the same basement and garage with the M15 building next door. When it was time to leave, he was advised to use the rear entrance because of an Irish republican demonstration taking place out front.

"I was led down a series of immensely long corridors," said a breathless Touhig. "Eventually the security guard pointed to a door at the end of one of these corridors and told me that that was the way out. When I got there the door was locked and when I returned to where the guard had left me that door was locked, too. I couldn't get out."

As the minutes stretched into hours, Touhig tried vainly to hang on to his nerve. "I could hear voices and I began shouting but no one could hear me. I was meant to be at the House for a reading of the Finance Bill."

Like a grounded fox, wild-eyed and sweating, the Labour MP at last stumbled upon a kitchen and a telephone. "I called my friend and neighbouring MP, Paul Murphy, the Minister of State for Northern



Ireland, I told him I was totally trapped. He came and got me out."

Tied up

NOWHERE are interminable fights more typified than with the poignant sight of the late Jacques Cousteau's abandoned research vessel, left to the elements off the coast of South Africa. While his family fights over his estate back in France, Cousteau's research ship *Alcyon* is gathering barnacles at Cape Town's waterfront with two sailors on board.

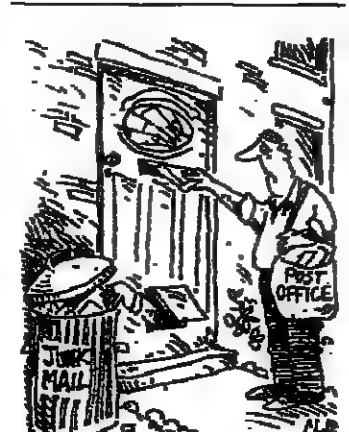
The *Alcyon* is one of a series of hi-tech, non-polluting vessels used by Cousteau to explore the world's oceans and she has been floating, almost forgotten in the harbour for nearly two years.

The vessel is costing about 5,000 rand (£650) a month in mooring

and maintenance charges, not counting the wages of two sailors who are kept on board. The Cousteau Society has been trying to downplay the effect of the feud on *Alcyon's* future, but officials have admitted there are no new projects planned for her at present.

Heavenly grub

STUDENTS attending Nelson Mandela's lecture at the Oxford Union on Friday evening were intrigued to hear the South African President extolling the virtues of Islam. Pressed on the matter, Mandela confessed that his



sympathy with the faith began during his prison days.

When inside, with visits and letters restricted to one every six months, the prisoners were allowed a weekly visit from various religious ministers. While the Christians brought in their Bibles and the rabbis arrived with their Torahs, the Muslim priests would turn up with a copy of the Koran and for each prisoner a chipatti or a samosa. For Mandela, it was the food that clinched it.

Nick Hornby, Arsenal Football Club fanatic and celebrated author of *Fever Pitch* and *High Fidelity*, is only two weeks away from finishing his third novel. "This one is about people," says Hornby, "with a little bit of football and music thrown in."

But the author confesses to a problem: "I still haven't thought of a title. It was the same with the last two — the title came last." Presumably not what Hornby would say about the Gunners' Premiership aspirations next season.

Peer pressure

LORD BETHELL, 4th Baron, former MP, and veteran campaigner on human rights in Eastern Europe, has taken up the cause of a persecuted minority closer to home

— his own, the hereditary peerage. When the Government introduces its promised legislation to restrict voting rights in the Upper Chamber to life peers, he intends to challenge it in the European Court of Human Rights. "I didn't have the chance to elect or not elect them," Bethell protests. "If they take away the only vote I have, I will be deprived of an elementary human right. It would present a clear and winnable case."

Taking a leaf out of the England cricket team handbook comes the Tory high command, decamped to the country to bond, regroup and think about its prospects. From yesterday to today, William Hague has gathered his inner circle at a hotel in Henley, Michael Heseltine's constituency. Present were members of his private office, a few members of the Shadow Cabinet and key Tory strategists. Their mission? To rethink the future of the Conservative Party.

Frock shock

The most treasured party frock of Diana, Princess of Wales, is being dismantled and turned into simulated-pearl earrings. The dress, designed by Catherine Walker and covered with 20,000 fake pearls and glass beads, was first worn by



Roxanne Duke: frocking news

the Princess at a London reception in 1982 and was aired again on her trip to Nepal in 1993. Last month it was sold at Christie's in New York for £24,500 to Arnold and Roxanne Duke, gem-brokers from Maryland.

"We can make up to 10,000 pairs of earrings set in 14-carat gold out of it," says Duke, who intends to sell them for £700 a pair. The gown's rhinestone and pearl belt will also be detached and sold for an additional £3,000. "Some people think the idea is rather tacky," admits Duke, "but I feel we're doing a positive thing."

P.H.S





## SPORTING AMATEURS

The distribution of lottery grants needs scrutiny

The National Lottery has seen millions of pounds flow to good causes. Hamilton Bland is not one of them. The swimming coach, whose web of interests we report today, appears to have exploited the various positions he holds for private gain. Mr Bland's potential conflicts of interest provide Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, the Media and Sport, with another reason to review the operation of the lottery. The patchwork nature of lottery grant distribution gives powers of patronage to a huge variety of individuals, some of them in situations where public and private interests can conflict. It is important that the spending process be devolved as far as possible from ministers, but the lottery must be protected from anyone who might see an opportunity to benefit personally.

The lottery has not created new ethical dilemmas in the disbursement of grants, but it has multiplied the sums involved and created many more potential difficulties. Mr Bland was riding two horses well before the opportunities offered by the lottery arose. In apparently recommending to local authorities the products of a swimming pool company for whom he was acting as agent he appears to have crumpled himself in conflicts of interest. His private interests do not inspire faith in his suitability for his position as "facilities consultant" to the Amateur Swimming Association. Mr Bland advises on the installation of millions of pounds worth of swimming pools, and the existence of a tangle of complicating interests makes his role, at best, problematic. The Sports Council was right to express its disquiet two years ago and it is remarkable that the ASA has not taken action until now.

It is in the best spirit of pluralism, and voluntarism, that the sums raised by the lottery should be spent by those who are, in the best sense, amateurs. The range of outside expertise and enthusiasm co-opted

onto bodies such as the National Heritage Memorial Fund takes decisions out of overcrowded ministerial in-trays and provides a welcome breadth of perspective. Ministers have, however, already found that the range of decisions taken at arm's length can embarrass. The former Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, was driven to express her disquiet at some charities which benefited from lottery largesse. Her objections to funding for "politically correct" causes may have been motivated with an eye to the polls but it indicated the potential for difficulties with one form of devolution.

The questions raised by Mr Bland's position are of a wholly different order but spring from the same structure. Were Mr Bland a government employee rather than the appointee of an independent body then his position would be easier to police. Inevitably, individuals with the experience to advise on sports or arts funding will find, on occasion, that their own network of ties can render them *parti pris*. Common sense has usually governed conduct. On bodies where potential conflicts have arisen, such as the Arts Council, figures such as Lord Rogers of Riverside have been at pains to absent themselves from decisions where their own interests are material. While Mr Bland may have stood aside at some meetings, his ties with one particular company suggest that more active scrutiny, and intervention, may be required.

Intervention should be sensitive, but it is hard to see how an individual with interests on the scale of Mr Bland's should be able to exercise the influence his position allows on major funding decisions. Given his pastrole as active agent for a commercial concern, it is hard to see how he can remain absolutely impartial in a situation which demands unqualified punctiliousness. Thorough investigation of his role should lead to a thoughtful review of lottery spending.

## EUROPE'S OTHER TERRORISTS

Britain must help Madrid beat Basque separatists

The brutal weekend murder of a young Basque politician by Eta terrorists has horrified and angered all Spain. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in rallies across the country demanding the release of the 29-year-old councillor abducted by gunman demanding the transfer of some 450 Basque prisoners to the Basque region. After his body was dumped by the roadside, fury and frustration exploded across the country. Demonstrators lobbed petrol bombs into the local offices of Herrri Batasuna, Eta's political wing. Parties across Spain condemned the killing and the Bishop of Bilbao said the act of terrorism degraded its instigators, its authors and anyone who supported them.

But while José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, led a Bilbao demonstration of half a million people, the government response has so far been measured. No new emergency measures have been announced. Madrid is sticking to its policy of ignoring the terrorists while refusing to accede to their demands on prisoners.

There is, indeed, no basis for any talks, for Eta demands no less than the break-up of the country. It wants complete independence for the Basque region — but forestalls any negotiations by insisting that this cannot be granted until Madrid abolishes the constitutional clause mandating the Army to protect national unity. The Basques already have more self-government than anyone else in Spain. A regional assembly with tax-raising powers is responsible for education, health and the police. The local government is led by the moderate Basque National Party, which strictly protects the Basque language, culture and separate identity. And whereas the Basques were indeed an oppressed people when Eta began its

campaign of violence against the Franco Government in 1968, no one could now point to any political grievance that does not have a democratic channel for its expression.

Like the IRA, Eta now consists of a hard core of fanatics with no interest in any political outcome that would close off violence and a continuation of the armed struggle. The random murder of the young councillor is the tenth killing this year, adding to a total of around 800 over the past 29 years. This latest, however, has alienated all other Basque political groups, which were ready to open a dialogue with Herrri Batasuna. That may have been a main aim of this assassination. For Eta's soft support will now melt away, leaving the organisation smaller but tougher.

The killing is also a sign of desperation. France, which for far too long turned a blind eye to Eta's activities on its soil, has for the past five years cracked down hard on the terrorists. A French raid in Bidart in 1992 captured most of the top leadership, crippling Eta's operations for years. Other European countries, tightening police co-operation in the fight against international terrorism, have also denied Eta sanctuary and are quick to help Madrid with intelligence tip-offs. Only Latin America now remains a refuge. Even in the Basque region itself, Eta can no longer count on silence and tacit support.

Of all Spain's allies, Britain should be the first to realise the dangers of a violent and irreconcilable regional sub-culture. The Government should spare no effort to offer its own intelligence support, persuade Mexico and Uruguay to tighten controls on Eta and use its coming European Union presidency to help to rid the continent of the scourge of terrorism.

## STUB IT OUT

Changing the law could curb smoking

Although the number of smokers has fallen dramatically since the link between cigarettes and cancer was first identified, the remaining total is still stubbornly high. The new Government displayed its determination to tackle this issue by its early ban on advertising and sponsorship by tobacco firms. It will take that strategy one step further today when the Department of Health hosts a conference to examine recent international initiatives.

The most prominent of these come from the United States. Some of the measures concerned — notably a blanket ban on all smoking in public places — raise problems of principle and practicality. A better idea is to raise the age at which cigarettes may legally be purchased from 16 to 18.

The law at present is curious and difficult to justify. Alcohol, where public policy is designed to promote moderation rather than prohibition, may not lawfully be bought from shops until the age of 18. Cigarettes, which have no redeeming qualities and where the public interest lies in minimal consumption, can be purchased at 16. It is difficult to establish any rational basis for this distinction.

Furthermore, smoking among teenagers is the root of the problem, since almost all adults who smoke started before the age of 20. The official Government target, a reduction in the proportion of all children aged 11 to 15 who smoke to 6 per cent, was

missed some time ago. The percentage of young girls who smoke is more than double that figure.

Making cigarettes harder for young people to buy seems a sensible aim. The modest level of current fines — a maximum of £2,000 — has proved insufficient to deter retailers. Cigarettes also enter the school playground through 16-year-olds who legally buy them and then give, or not infrequently sell, them on to younger pupils.

An increase in the legal age to 18, combined with a sharp increase in the penalties on those who sell cigarettes to the young, could have some chance of success. The tighter sanctions on the retailer are vital if the move to 18 is to be more than symbolic.

The tobacco industry will probably protest. If so, Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, might remind industry leaders of the tentative settlements their sister companies in the United States have reached with the state Governments who were suing them. As part of this package, cigarette firms would be subject to financial penalties if youth smoking failed to fall to official targets over five, seven, and ten-year periods. The firms have withdrawn advertising material that appeals to the teenage market. They have also agreed to fund a nationwide campaign to dissuade children from starting the habit. In Britain, as in the United States, the option of litigation remains open if persuasion fails to produce results.

## Rules for the payment of MPs

From Mr M. Al Fayed, Chairman of Harrods

Sir, Friendship is a fine thing. The trouble is Lord Harris of High Cross (letter, July 11) does not seem to know his friend Neil Hamilton as well as I do.

Why did I pay Mr Hamilton? Because he demanded it. Why were payments required? I did not make the rules; they already existed in 1985 when, as a foreign investor, I brought £573 million into this country and acquired House of Fraser fair and square. This led to a vociferous campaign against me, including in the House of Commons. There was no shortage of Tory MPs willing to pile in against me.

Even though I was running 100 department stores from Inverness to Plymouth and employing 25,000 British people, no MP at that time would speak up for an Egyptian. That was when the lobbyist Ian Greer introduced me to Mr Hamilton.

Lord Harris accuses me of making "malicious allegations". I made my disclosures in the public interest, notwithstanding the considerable commercial and personal risks involved, like being attacked by him. I have four British children and just as much of a stake in the better governance of this country as a peer of the realm.

Quoting a Commons resolution of 1995, he says that I seem to be "the villain of the piece". In fact, it is not illegal to pay MPs; big companies and trade unions are doing it all the time. What is improper is for MPs to fail to disclose such payments in the Register of Members' Interests and that is the offence of which Sir Gordon Downey has found Mr Hamilton guilty (reports, July 4).

Lord Harris says my testimony was "unreliable". Sir Gordon Downey disagrees in three fat volumes.

Yours faithfully,  
M. AL FAYED,  
Chairman, Harrods,  
87/135 Brompton Road, SW1,  
July 11.

## Drugs legislation

From Mr Peter Kidson

Sir, Tim Rathbone, former chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Drugs Misuse Group, says (letter, July 10) that reducing legal sanctions against drug use and dealing will not reduce drug-related crime. As effective legal sanctions increase the risks and costs to criminal drug dealers, so the price on the street goes up and addicts turn to crime to finance their habit. This crime is a prohibition problem, not a drug problem as such.

It follows that as legal sanctions are reduced, thereby making drugs less illegal or even legal, so the street price of drugs will reduce and addicts will have less need to resort to crime — at present estimated to amount to half the total value of all theft.

Yours faithfully,  
P. KIDSON,  
North Lodge, Ridgeway,  
Horsell, Woking, Surrey,  
July 10.

## Budget and industry

From Professor D. G. Rhys

Sir, If Anatole Kaletsky is right (article, "If Britain goes bust don't blame the Budget", July 8) and new Labour really proposes to complete the process of turning Britain into a post-industrial economy by sacrificing manufacturing industry to the need to control inflation, then this has horrifying consequences not just for industry but for the manufacturing-intensive areas of the UK.

The modern economic base in areas such as the North East and Wales consists of a burgeoning, efficient manufacturing sector. In Wales, and as an exception to the normal trend in a developed economy, the proportion of GDP generated by manufacturing industry is increasing and widely predicted to reach 30 per cent by 2001. If the burden of economic adjustment is, as Kaletsky suggests, to be placed on UK manufacturing, then the resultant decline in manufacturing capacity will cripple an economy like the Welsh one, and make a mockery of the "de facto" Welsh economic policy which has based economic recovery on stimulating existing, and attracting new, manufacturing enterprises.

If the Bank of England's and Treasury's attitude to industry is, in effect, to undermine a major part of British regional policy then at the very least we should be told.

Yours faithfully,  
GAREL RHYSS (Head of Economics),  
Cardiff University Business School,  
Aberconway Building,  
Colum Drive, Cardiff,  
July 10.

## UK economy

From Mr David Weeks

Sir, As well as "party politics" (letter, July 11; see also letters, July 7 and 12) two other words that might account for the relative performance of the UK and Hong Kong economies are: work ethic.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID WEEKS,  
Claver Cross Farm, Dunkerton, Bath,  
dclaw@bt.com  
July 11.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Blair's 'national plan' for education

From Lord Skidelsky

Sir, I was interested to read your wholehearted endorsement of the central planning of education (leading article, "Labour's standards", July 8). The new White Paper commits the Government to a national plan for raising educational standards by means of output targets for each school and all pupils (measured by test results), specified production methods ("best practice"), targeted allocation of resources (eg, to primary schools) and an intrusive monitoring system ("zero tolerance") backed by sticks (dismissals, closures, takeovers by management teams of failing schools) and failing local education authorities) and carrots (bonuses for plan fulfilment).

Three questions immediately arise. What national emergency requires this extension of state control over education? Why does the Government believe that central control will raise the quality and efficiency of education? And how does your leader approvingly describe as a "Prussian" system of inspection square with the values and practices of a free society?

You rightly point out that Labour's plan is "more coherent and all-embracing than any of the initiatives introduced by John Major's Government". I would like to think that this is because the Conservative Government retained some commitment to the idea of variety of school and freedom of parental choice.

Everyone is in favour of a good education for all. The question is whether this can or should be planned by central government, or whether it can and should arise as a by-product of choice and competition.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT SKIDELSKY,  
House of Lords,  
July 8.

From Dr Jean Lawrence

Sir, The Prime Minister (article, July 7) favours "setting [grouping within certain subjects according to ability, rather than mixed-ability teaching, in comprehensive schools] as one means of catering for children's differing talents and abilities, recognising them, and stretching children to progress as far and as fast as they can."

## Classical acting

From the Director of Shakespeare Unplugged

Sir, We at the National Theatre share your concern about the state of classical theatre training in Britain (report and leading article, July 9).

If young actors cannot make the language of Shakespeare and Shaw their own, they will be unable to bring these plays alive for audiences of the future. Our extraordinary collective tradition could become the exclusive preserve of an educated elite. This would be a huge loss and a commercial absurdity for a country whose most significant global asset is the English language.

The National Theatre's *Shakespeare Unplugged* project is partly conceived as a training ground for young actors, but we were still shocked to find that one of our leading actors in *Twelfth Night* had gone through three years at a major drama school without doing a single Shakespeare.

Drama schools are finding that new students lack basic skills that were previously taken for granted. It's not simply that they have little understanding of Shakespeare: very few have had to learn text at school or speak it out loud, and they often lack knowledge of grammar and punctuation.

At the same time, the funding crisis in the regional repertory theatres is depriving young performers not just of a grounding in the classics, but also of the experience of working as an ensemble.

## Greenhouse pest

From Dr Richmond A. Dutton

Sir, I read with interest Dr Stuttaford's "Medical Briefing" (July 8) on the problem of the glasshouse red spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae*, causing allergies in humans. I confess that in 25 years of working in horticulture I have never encountered such a problem. I must take exception to the description of the mite having a "blood-sucking mouth". This mite, of course, is entirely vegetarian and is no more predatory than, say, a sheep.

May I suggest a couple of simple and non-pharmaceutical cures for the problem. One solution would be to introduce the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* into the greenhouse — these will eat all other mites but may, presumably, cause the same problems themselves. Or, simpler, keep up a high humidity in the glasshouse by misting the plants and damping down the floor. *Tetranychus* only thrives in a dry atmosphere.

Yours etc,  
R. A. DUTTON,  
11 St Andrews Road,  
Cloughton, Wirral, Merseyside,  
July 8.

Letters may be faxed to  
0171-782-5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## 'Best' scientific evidence on BSE

From Professor P. J. Lachmann, FRS, Biological Secretary and Vice-President of the Royal Society

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article on BSE (July 7) is most unfortunate in that it gives prominence to Alan Ebinger's preposterous thesis that BSE is an auto-immune disease. This is comparable with Peter Duesberg's false hypothesis that AIDS is not the consequence of infection with HIV — another story which had extensive coverage in the press and on television. While maverick views on science exceptionally turn out to be right, the reverse is usually the case. Lord Rees-Mogg would have done well to consult more widely before rushing into print.

There is overwhelming evidence that BSE and related spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) are transmissible in a way that auto-immune disease is not. The pathological appearances are also quite different. Furthermore the experiments of the Zurich investigators on the susceptibility of immunodeficient mice to TSEs are misrepresented by the Ebinger thesis which claims that such mice cannot be infected with prions (the infective agent).

However, immunodeficient strains of mice can be infected with prions and do develop the disease if they are injected with appropriate prions directly into the brain — proving conclusively that the disease is not auto-immune. It is only when these mice are injected with prions elsewhere (eg, into their muscles) that they fail to become infected. This is because components of the immune system are needed to "transport" the agent to the brain.

I strongly endorse Lord Rees-Mogg's view that the public needs to be sure that BSE policy is supported by the best scientific evidence. That evidence gives no credence to any idea of auto-immune involvement in the disease.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. LACHMANN  
(Chairman, Royal Society Group on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies;  
Professor of Immunology,  
University of Cambridge,  
The Royal Society,  
6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,  
July 10.

## Byron's brass eagle

From the Rector Chori of Southwell Minster

Sir, Of the abbey itself at Newstead (report, "Coal pit will undermine Byron's abbey", July 8) little remains. Byron himself made sure of that by his family's neglect of the place. However, one significant Flemish artefact, made for the abbey in about 1504, now graces the cathedral here at Southwell.

On the dissolution of Newstead Abbey in 1539, its magnificent brass eagle lectern was cast by the monks into the fishpond to prevent it falling into the hands of Henry VIII's commissioners, where amazingly it remained, forgotten for 250 years, before being dredged up. Bought from a Nottingham scrap-merchant, it was eventually restored and presented to Southwell, Newstead's neighbouring cathedral, in the 19th century.

It is quite something when viewing this beautiful bird to ponder that it has spent more than half its life underwater.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL HALE,  
Rector Chori, Southwell Minster,  
4 Vicar's Court,  
Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

## BA puzzle

From Mr Stuart Fyles

Sir, Brigadier A. A. Wilson (letter, July 10) asks what the three small pots of unguent are for in the emergency pack that was provided by British Airways when his baggage was left behind.

The answer is simple. The "Relaxing Gel" should be spread over airport lounge seats prior to delays — I have never been able to relax in one yet. The "Rehydration Gel" should be added to meals once aboard the aircraft — no explanation necessary. Finally, the "Revitalising Gel" should be saved until the end of the present dispute and then spread liberally over aircraft. BA stationery and the like to spruce up what will, by then, be a rather jaded new corporate image.

On the other hand, to judge by reactions I have heard to the new corporate identity as depicted on the planes' tailfins, the "Revitalising Gel" could be used immediately while some of the aircraft are still grounded.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART FYLES,  
10 Salvington Hill,  
Worthing, West Sussex.

## Same again?

From Mr Brian Lynch

Sir, Picket lines again, inflation up, interest rates up, more troops in Ulster. Ken Livingstone back in the limelight. Didn't take long, did it?

Yours,  
BRIAN LYNCH,  
3 Marlborough Road,  
Brentwood, Essex,  
July 13.







NEWS IN BRIEF

Euro-MPs to question minister over beef

Jack Cunningham, the first of a series of ministers to be questioned by the European Parliament, will be asked to explain how hundreds of tonnes of British beef were exported to the Continent in contravention of the 1996 ban on beef imported from Britain.

Thalidomide parents' claim

The parents of a young girl who was born with severe disabilities and legs that were a mere stump, have filed a claim in court to obtain compensation for the damage caused by thalidomide.

Luoy sabotaged by Greenpeace

Protesters in Luoy, China, have sabotaged the launch of a satellite by the Chinese government, claiming that the satellite was a spy satellite.

an murdered nightclub

A man was found dead in a nightclub in London, and the police are investigating the case.

cricketing discovered

A man who was discovered to be a cricket player, and the police are investigating the case.

OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID PITBLADO

Sir David Pitblado, KCB, CVO, former Joint Principal Private Secretary to Sir Winston Churchill and Comptroller and Auditor-General, 1971-76, died on July 9 aged 84. He was born on August 18, 1912.

David Pitblado was a civil servant of the highest integrity and determination. He had a very attractive sense of humour, though he subordinated it to a stern sense of duty to his profession and his country. That sense of duty can never have come under a stronger test than when in October 1957 Winston Churchill, on returning to Downing Street, took one look at the surviving members of the No 10 private office before exclaiming: "Drenched in socialism, all of them."

College, Cambridge, of which he was proud to be elected an Honorary Fellow 40 years later. He passed the Civil Service examinations in 1935 and was posted to the Dominions Office, becoming in due course assistant private secretary to two successive Secretaries of State, first Malcolm MacDonald and then Lord Stanley. During the Second World War he served in the Cabinet Office under Sir Edward Bridges, whom he idolised. Being considered of above average ability, he was then sent to the Treasury. A member of the British delegation, led by Anthony Eden, to the 1945 United Nations Conference in San Francisco, he was promoted to Under-Secretary in 1949.

In 1951, he was chosen to be Principal Private Secretary to the Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee. He held this position for only three months when the Labour Government lost the October 1951 general election and Attlee was succeeded by Churchill. Of an age at which people generally like to have familiar faces around them, the new Prime Minister first wanted to recall his last wartime Principal Private Secretary, Sir Leslie Rowan. Advised by the Secretary to the Cabinet, Sir Norman Brook, that Rowan had by now risen too high in Whitehall for this to be practicable, Churchill settled instead for the return of the young assistant private secretary that had been snatched from him in 1951 — was more than content to remain in Downing Street once Eden had taken over. This proved

to be a mistake. His own placid temperament rubbed the volatile Eden up the wrong way, and there was a measure of relief all round when at the very beginning of 1956 he returned to the Treasury to make way for "Freddie" Bishop, who served Eden until his fall in 1957 and then stayed with his successor, Harold Macmillan, until April 1959.

The suspicion that Pitblado's move was not entirely voluntary is perhaps best borne out by the fact that the initial job the Treasury offered him was that of being vice-chairman of the European Payments Union — not a normal stopping-off point for a high-flyer. (He had been appointed CB in 1955 and CVO in the Coronation Honours of 1953.)

But by 1960 things were looking up. In that year he was appointed a Treasury Third Secretary and the following year became, in succession to Lord Cromer, later Governor of the Bank of England — head of the Treasury delegation in Washington. This post traditionally carries the rank of Minister within the Foreign Service and also offers a seat on the boards of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Pitblado left thoroughly at home in Washington and carried out his responsibilities with great competence.

That made it all the more surprising that, when he came home in 1963, it was only to return to the somewhat amorphous duties of a Third Secretary at the Treasury. But the truth probably was that at that time there was something of a logjam on the promotional ladder in Whitehall. Revealingly, it was not until 1965 that Pitblado first got his foot onto it with his appointment as deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Power. He inherited the permanent secretaryship in 1966 but it was not the most glamorous of Whitehall departments — it was abolished in 1969. Although Pitblado had three successive ministers pass through his hands, none of them exactly qualified as a rising star. He had the consolation of being advanced to KCB in 1967.



JOHN AKII-BUA



John Akii-Bua, Uganda's 1972 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, died after a long illness on June 21 aged 47. He was born on December 3, 1949.

JOHN AKII-BUA will be remembered in the history of international athletics for being the first African to win an Olympic title in one of the most technically, as well as physically demanding events. When he won his gold medal at Munich in 1972, he set a world record of 47.82 seconds in an event that the American coach Dean Cromwell nicknamed "the man-killer of track and field". He beat the 48.12 seconds of Britain's David Hemery at high altitude in Mexico City in 1968.

EDWARD AMOS



Edward Amos, musician and teacher, died on June 18 aged 72. He was born on November 3, 1924.

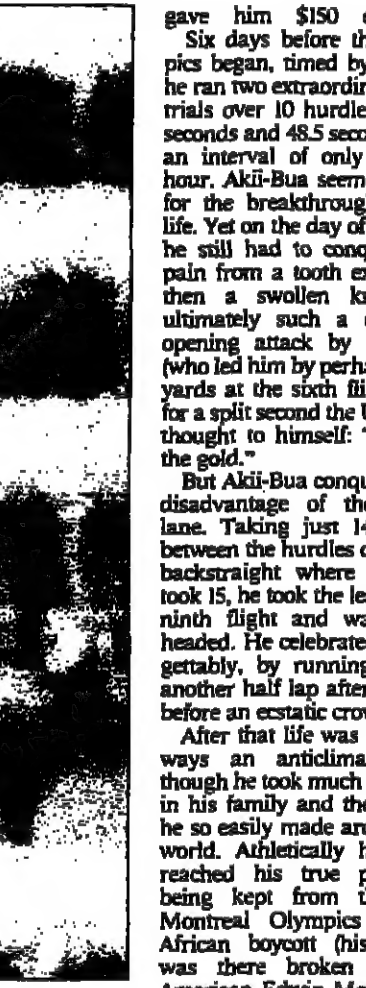
Edward AMOS was one of that breed of schoolmasters who devote their entire careers to one school, in his case to Bedford School. He taught there for 36 years from 1950, 22 of them as director of music. Known to everyone as "Ted", he did not allow his work in the field of music to cease at the school gates. Many organisations and children came under his influence.

THE KING AT NEWMARKET WORKHOUSE



It is well known that the King takes a great interest in the conditions under which even the poorest of his subjects live. He recalled an earlier visit to Newmarket Workhouse, when the institution yesterday to see the extensive alterations that have been made to the buildings. Passing into the workhouse, the King expressed his satisfaction at seeing so large, clean and airy an apartment as that used by the inmates as a dining-hall.

ON THIS DAY



July 14, 1904  
King Edward VII was a popular and successful figure on the turf, so a return visit to the Newmarket Workhouse, during which he joked with some of the inmates and chatted with a former trainer to the King of Spain, fitted in well with some racing on the Heath.

Elections to the British Academy

The British Academy's officers for 1997-98 will be: Sir Tony Wrigley, President; Professor M. M. McGowan, Vice-President; Mr J. S. Fleming, Treasurer; Professor B. E. Supple, Foreign Secretary; Professor F. G. B. Millar, Publications Secretary; Professor R. R. Davies, Chairman of the Committee on Academic Research Projects.

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## NEWS

## Inquiry into swim man's lottery deals

A government inquiry was promised into allegations that Hamilton Bland, the BBC's "voice of swimming", had been involved in a potential conflict of interests over the distribution of National Lottery money.

Mr Bland has an official role recommending which swimming pool bids get lottery cash. But, an investigation by *The Times* and Granada TV's *World in Action* shows, he is also a consultant for those seeking funding. Pages 1, 8, 9

## Former Major aide is US envoy

Christopher Meyer, a former Downing Street press secretary under John Major, has emerged as the surprise front-runner to take over the key diplomatic post of British Ambassador to Washington from Sir John Kerr, who will return to London in the autumn to head the Diplomatic Service. Page 1

## Eta killing

Street violence erupted in northern Spain after the murder of a town councillor by the separatist movement Eta. Pages 1, 11

## Junk mail war

A crusade to stanch the deluge of junk mail and the sale of personal information about customers without consent is to be undertaken by the data protection watchdog. Page 1

## BA disarray

British Airways' flights from Heathrow will be disrupted for at least the next three days as while strikers have returned more than 1,800 cabin staff are still on sick leave. Page 2

## Helicopter crash

A boy aged nine died when a helicopter pleasure flight organised by a Noel Edmonds charity crashed near Glamis Castle. Five others were hurt. Page 3

## Princess's holiday

Diana, Princess of Wales, continued her yacht holiday with the businessman Mohamed Al Fayed amid criticism that the trip was "ill-advised". Page 5

## Bad timing

Balancing the demands of a career and home life is becoming an increasing problem for today's young professionals, according to research. One-fifth would be prepared to take a pay cut if it meant having more free time. Page 7

## Glenn Miller 'died in French brothel'

Glenn Miller, the American band leader, did not die in a plane crash over the Channel but in a French brothel, according to a German investigative journalist. The author of a book about Germany's intelligence service claims Miller's plane reached France and that he died of a heart attack in the arms of a Paris prostitute. Page 1



Soldiers wear First World War battledress at a commemoration yesterday of the battle of Passchendaele in Belgium 80 years ago

## BUSINESS

Plane fact: British Airways has admitted its own internal problems caused baggage delays and flight cancellations well in advance of last week's industrial action by cabin crew. Page 48

Distance call: MCI's chairman arrives in London today for negotiations on the price British Telecom must pay for the company after last week's profits alert. Page 48

Sony jobs: Sony, the electronics giant, is setting up a 100-strong research base in Cambridge to develop "artificial life". Page 48

Petrol plan: Supermarket chains would be forced to store vast quantities of fuel under oil company proposals put forward to the Office of Fair Trading's petrol market inquiry. Page 48

## ARTS

Melvin Bragg: "Where do I stand with Norman Mailer after the damaging and lurid confessions of his wife? Do I still rate him or must I learn to hate him?" Page 18

Busy thespian: The British theatre actor Peter Postlethwaite has a nice career going on the big screen, thanks, in part, to Steven Spielberg. Page 18

Real thing: The Kirov Ballet brought its staging of *Swan Lake* to London on Friday and showed us what 19th-century classical ballet was all about. Page 19

New work: Diana Burrell's new opera, *The Albatross*, is given its premiere by the Trinity College of Music at Spitalfields. Page 19

## FEATURES

Art is it: These days, art galleries are the only places to be seen for the in-crowd. Page 17

Beer, bourbon and bonding: Real men are fighting back with a new bestseller, says Giles Whittell. Page 16

Get even, get everything: Brian Vine reports on the divorce suit that tops them all. Page 16

Phus: Tracing stolen gold, why children make the best linguists, and flashing lights for defensive purposes. Page 15

## TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES  
Richard Cork reviews the Hiroshige exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, London

LAW  
American law firms are recruiting in London — and English lawyers are cashing in

## LEAD STORY

Preview: Celebration of the Royal Opera House, *The Farewell Gala* (BBC2, 7.30). Review: Matthew Bond enjoys David Dimbleby's Indian postcards. Pages 46, 47

## SPORTING AMATEURS

The patchwork nature of lottery grant distribution places huge patronage in a variety of hands, some of them apparently not entirely safe. Page 21

## EUROPEAN TERRORISTS

Of all Spain's allies, Britain should be the first to realise the dangers of a violent and irreconcilable regional sub-culture. Page 21

## STUB IT OUT

Some anti-smoking measures raise problems of principle and practicality. Page 21

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I have known few people of warmer hearts, shrewder judgment or stronger courage than tough-minded whisky-drinking lesbians of a certain age. Page 20

## PETER RIDDELL

Ministers should ponder Hugh Dalton's diary entry: "I am riding just now on a high tide of success. I must, therefore, cautiously watch my step!" Within 18 months, he had been forced to resign. Page 20

## MICHAEL GOVE

Past experiments in populism at Radio 4, from *Citizens* to *Anderson Country*, sat in the schedules like Orangemen at Mass, uncomfortable and unpopular. Page 20

## BOXING

Heavyweight boxing plunged back into controversy when Henry Akinwande was disqualified for repeatedly holding Lennox Lewis. Page 30

Rugby union: England were beaten 25-6 in the international against Australia in Sydney, but learnt some valuable lessons. Page 32

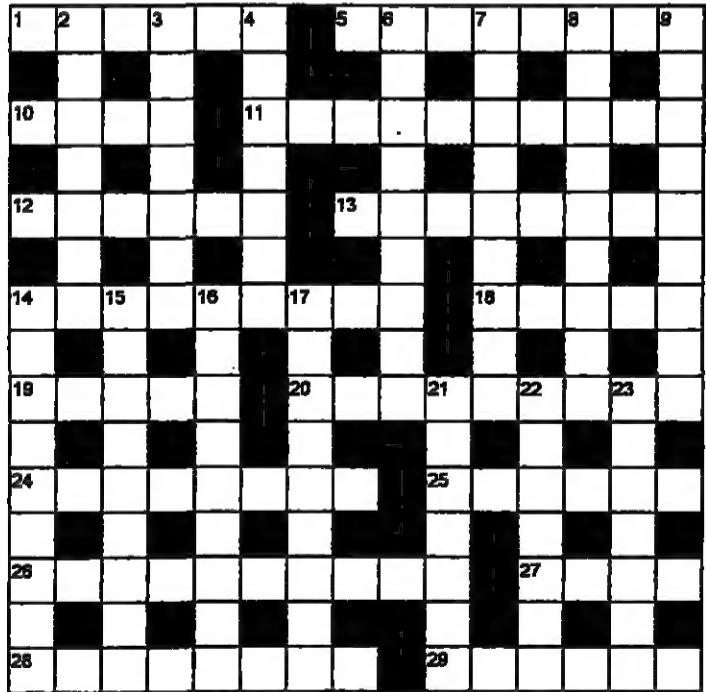
Tennis: Greg Rusedski won the deciding rubber to give Britain a 3-2 win over Ukraine in the Davis Cup. Page 26

Cricket: Ben Hollis underlined that he possesses the talent and temperament to illuminate big occasions with a match-winning innings for Surrey in the Benson and Hedges Cup final. Page 33

Mr Al Fayed replies to Lord Harris: centralising education planning: BSE transmission. Page 21

Three-quarters of Russia's civil aircraft have exceeded their normal lifespan and need to be thoroughly overhauled. It is time for the federal Government to conduct a sweeping bottom-up review. — Moscow Tribune

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,531



- ACROSS
- Hard worker one of those responsible for horse and trap (6).
  - Militant in Berlin following fourth part of play (8).
  - Celebrity backing way to become national leader (4).
  - Racy cadets ragged timid fellow (7-3).
  - It prevents one sinking in a difficult situation (6).
  - Cave in wood sheltering everyone on way back (8).
  - County coach provides position for foremost players (9).
  - French resort accommodating English relative (5).
  - Section of cult rather extreme in opinion (5).
  - Gathered together and composed (9).
  - Disciplinarian can initially spoil him (8).
  - A rodent keeps it in a hole (6).
- DOWN
- Soak last of fruit in port to make this dish (7).
  - He views the action from a box (7).
  - Beginning to develop sickbay erected with little cash (7).
  - Material point grasped by Nym, for one (9).
  - Inactivity could be nice, pocketing new benefit (9).
  - Beginning event with Greek character replacing daughter (9).
  - It establishes ownership of river in noble's possession (5,4).
  - He may have a warrant to lead strikers on the march (4,5).
  - Saving system set up by House, in readiness for a rainy day (5,4).
  - Traits one developed as a shop-keeper (9).
  - Original model made by rogues Eastern characters (9).
  - State of a solid figure, expressed briefly (7).
  - Delicacy — one a king consumed by a grotto (7).
  - Show lively interest, taking in directions in this way (7).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,530 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

## AN INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions  
UK Weather All regions 0236 444 910  
UK Roads - All regions 0236 401 410  
Inland P23 0236 401 740  
P23 and Link Roads 0236 401 740  
National Freeways 0236 401 740  
Commercial Routes 0236 401 710  
Channel crossing 0236 401 710  
Ferry services 0236 401 710  
Channel crossings 0236 401 710  
Ferry services 0236 401 710

Weather by Fax  
Did 0236 444 910 from your fax  
Fax Country 0236 444 910  
Fax City 0236 444 910  
Fax Region 0236 444 910  
Fax Country 0236 444 910  
Fax City 0236 444 910  
Fax Region 0236 444 910

World City Weather  
115 city forecasts  
0 day forecasts 0236 412 226  
by Fax (from page) 0236 412 226

Motorway  
Europe Country by Country 0236 401 888  
European Cities 0236 401 888  
French Motorways 0236 401 888  
Dutch Motorways 0236 401 888  
Danish Roads 0236 401 888  
Li Shuwei 0236 401 888

Car reports by fax  
New and used car reports from  
the UK's most popular car  
deal from your fax handset.  
You may have to set up your fax mode.  
Market: Best Buy Best Buy Best Buy  
Cars are charged at 10p per minute or at 10p

HOURS OF DARKNESS  
Sun rises: 5:00 am Sun sets: 9:12 pm  
Moon rises: 12:55 am Moon sets: 3:11 pm  
Full moon July 20  
London 9:12 pm to 5:01 am  
Bristol 9:22 pm to 5:11 am  
Edinburgh 9:50 pm to 4:48 am  
Manchester 9:31 pm to 4:58 am  
Perthshire 9:27 pm to 5:29 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING  
Recycled paper made up  
41.2% of the raw material for  
UK newspapers in the first  
half of 1996

LONDON TO  
AMSTERDAM  
£59  
LONDON TO  
JERSEY  
£39  
LONDON TO  
MILAN  
£169

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## FORECAST

General: Central, eastern and northern England will have a dry day with sunny spells, with the best of the sunshine in the east. A little fresher than of late.  
Wales, SW England, W Scotland, N Ireland dry and bright at first; hazy sunshine. Cloudier later, rain in N Ireland in afternoon, reaching other western areas by evening.  
Northern and eastern Scotland will start cloudy with showers. Drier, brighter in all but Shetland later. Tonight many eastern parts will remain dry with clear spells, but western areas will cloud over during evening with rain pushing eastwards, bringing a damp and misty night.  
London, SE, Cent S, E, NW, Cent N, NE England, Midlands, E Anglia, Ch 1st: Mostly dry day. Long sunny spells. Cloudier periods. Light wind. Max 21C (70F)  
SW England, Wales, IOM: Sunshine this morning, cloudier this afternoon, rain by evening. Light wind. Max 20C (68F).  
Lake, SW, NW Scotland, Galloway, Argyll: Mostly dry with sunny spells. Clearer by evening. Light wind. Max 15C (59F).  
Borders, E Anglia, E Anglia, A' Glen, Cent N Ireland, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: Cloudy, showers this morning. Brighter and drier this afternoon. Light wind. Max 15C (59F).  
Shetland: Mostly cloudy with showers. Moderate SE wind. Max 15C (59F).  
N Ireland: Cools bright at first, but mainly cloudy with rain this afternoon. Light to mod S wind. Max 15C (59F).  
Outlook: Unsettled, but generally warm and dry in South East.  
Pollent: Low in SW, SE, Cent S England, London, moderate in NE England, S Wales, East Anglia, Home Counties; high in Scotland, N Ireland, NW England, N Wales, Midlands (supplied by Pollen Research Unit).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY  
24 hrs to 5 pm: b: bright; c: cloudy; d: drizzle; de: dust; ds: dust; f: fog; g: gale; h: hail; i: ice; j: jet; k: shower; l: light; m: mist; n: rain; o: overcast; s: sun; t: thunder; v: very; w: wind; x: snow; y: yellow; z: zero

|                | Sun | Mon  | Tue | Wed | Th | Fri       | Sat          | Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed | Th | Fri | Sat | Sun |  |
|----------------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|-----------|--------------|------|------|------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| Aberdeen       | 13  | 13   | 13  | 20  | 68 | sh        | Jersey       | 10   | 1    | 0.26 | 22  | 72 | s   |     |     |  |
| Anglo          | 13  | 13   | 13  | 20  | 68 | sh        | Kilkee       | 10   | 1    | 0.26 | 22  | 72 | s   |     |     |  |
| Armagh         | 13  | 13   | 13  | 20  | 68 | sh        | Leeds        | 5.2  | 0.05 | 22   | 72  | 72 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Ashford        | 13  | 13   | 13  | 20  | 68 | sh        | Lancaster    | 1.8  | 0.01 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Avenmore       | 20  | 0.06 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Larne        | 1    | 0.39 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Belfast        | 18  | 0.06 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Lisburn      | 5.4  | 0.01 | 21   | 70  | 70 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Birmingham     | 77  | 13   | 22  | 72  | s  | London    | 1.8          | 0.01 | 21   | 70   | 70  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Bristol        | 77  | 13   | 22  | 72  | s  | Lowestoft | 9.8          | 0.1  | 21   | 70   | 70  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Brighton       | 6.0 | 0.35 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Manchester   | 9.7  | 0.22 | 22   | 72  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Buckton        | 6.0 | 0.11 | 20  | 68  | sh | Margate   | 16.2         | 0.36 | 21   | 70   | 70  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Burnley        | 6.0 | 0.11 | 20  | 68  | sh | Minehead  | 3.6          | 0.13 | 22   | 72   | 72  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Cardiff        | 6.0 | 0.01 | 19  | 68  | s  | Monaghan  | 1.8          | 0.36 | 21   | 70   | 70  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Carmarthen Bay | 6.0 | 0.01 | 19  | 68  | s  | Newcastle | 4.1          | 0.15 | 20   | 73   | 73  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Carraig        | 7.6 | 0.08 | 23  | 73  | l  | Norwich   | 8.6          | 0.23 | 24   | 75   | 75  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Dorset         | 1   | 0.26 | 16  | 64  | sh | Penzance  | 8.4          | 0.06 | 20   | 68   | 68  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Eastbourne     | 0.9 | 0.21 | 20  | 68  | sh | Priddy    | 8            | 0.1  | 20   | 68   | 68  | sh |     |     |     |  |
| Edinburgh      | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Priddy       | 8    | 0.1  | 20   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Rose-O'Grady | 1.8  | 0.14 | 22   | 72  | 72 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 | sh        | Saunders     | 1.2  | 0.09 | 19   | 68  | 68 | sh  |     |     |  |
| Farnham        | 0.9 | 0.12 | 21  | 70  | 70 |           |              |      |      |      |     |    |     |     |     |  |